

Summer Reading 2009 – English 10 – (Required)
Life of Pi by Yann Martel

You may use audio/I-Tunes along with the book if it will help your comprehension. Please be sure to use the unabridged version only.

Read with care and make sure you can answer the questions as you will be tested on this material the first week of school. Please bring your completed guide with you on the first day of class.

Chapters 1 - 7

- 1) What two things did Pi study at the University of Toronto?
- 2) What animal did Pi study in particular and why?
- 3) What embarrasses Pi at the end of the chapter?
- 4) Who is “Mamaji”?
- 5) What does Mamaji introduce to the Patel Family?
- 6) How does Pi get his name (Piscine Molitor)?
- 7) What is Pi’s father’s job before he became a zookeeper?
- 8) What is Pi’s childhood like at the zoo?
- 9) When does Pi say is the best time(s) to visit the zoo and why?
- 10) What are some of the misconceptions Pi says people have about zoos?
- 11) Why does Pi say animals in the wild are not “free”?
- 12) What does Pi mean when he says that the animals in the zoo are less like a prisoner and more like a landholder?
- 13) Does the Pondicherry zoo still exist?
- 14) Why do the other children make fun of Pi’s name?
- 15) How does Pi stop the teasing?
- 16) Who is Mr. Satish Kumar? Where does he work?
- 17) What are Mr. Kumar’s religious views?
- 18) What happened to Mr. Kumar as a child? How did this affect his religious views?

19) Why do atheists not bother Pi? Who do agnostics bother him? (If you do not know what an agnostic is you need to look it up in a dictionary)

Chapters 8 - 20

- 1) What is the most dangerous animal in the zoo?
- 2) Who are the worst troublemakers at the zoo?
- 3) How does Mr. Patel teach Pi and Ravi about the dangerous nature of the animals at the zoo?
- 4) What is “at the heart of the art and science of zookeeping” (pg. 39)?
- 5) How does lion-taming work?
- 6) What is unusual about the religious images in Pi’s house?
- 7) What religion is Pi raised with?
- 8) Who does Pi say he met on holiday?
- 9) What religion does Pi learn about and eventually become fascinated with?
- 10) When Pi questions this religion, what answer does Fr. Martin always give him?
- 11) Why does Pi have a hard time understanding this new religion?
- 12) What decision does Pi make at the end of the chapter?
- 13) What religion does Pi discover less than a year later?
- 14) How does he get introduced to this religion?
- 15) What answer does Pi get to “What’s your religion about?”
- 16) Who is Satish Kumar?
- 17) What does Mr. Kumar teach Pi?
- 18) Who does Pi claim he once saw at the end of the chapter?

Chapters 21 - 36

- 1) Are Pi’s parents and brother religious?
- 2) What happens when the three Holy men discover Pi is practicing three different religions?
- 3) How does Pi defend his practice of three religions (hint: it’s a quote from Gandhi)?

- 4) How do the three Holy men react to Pi's defense?
- 5) What two requests does Pi make to his mother?
- 6) How does his mother react to these requests?
- 7) How does Pi defend his requests?
- 8) Does Pi get what he requests in Chapter 26?
- 9) What does Mr. Patel announce that particularly upsets Pi and Ravi?
- 10) What does the interviewer find out about Pi in this chapter?
- 11) Which two characters meet in this chapter?
- 12) What is the story of Methuselah the mouse?
- 13) Describe the preparations necessary in moving a zoo. How long did it take?
- 14) When did they leave for Canada?
- 15) What is the name of the Japanese cargo ship they traveled in?
- 16) Who has a really hard time with the move in this chapter?
- 17) What other surprising things does the interviewer find out about Pi in this chapter?

Chapters 37 - 55

- 1) What is the very first thing we learn in this chapter?
- 2) Who does Pi save and why does he immediately regret this?
- 3) Describe Pi's account of what happened the night the ship sank.
- 4) Does anyone know what caused the ship to sink?
- 5) What does the crew do to Pi at the end of the chapter?
- 6) Who crashes onto the lifeboat with Pi?
- 7) Who does Pi fear is on the lifeboat with him?
- 8) What animals does he find on the lifeboat with him in this chapter? Which one is wounded?
- 9) What evidence does Pi have that Richard Parker is NOT on the boat with him?

- 10) What does Pi think is the real reason the sailors threw him overboard?
- 11) Who floats up on an island of bananas?
- 12) Pi saves the net, but what does he lose?
- 13) Does Pi think he will be on the lifeboat long? Why?
- 14) Describe both the appearance and behavior of a hyena.
- 15) What does the hyena do that horrifies Pi?
- 16) Why doesn't Pi "have pity to spare for the zebra" (pg. 120 or thereabouts)?
- 17) What human quality does Orange Juice display in this chapter that Pi finds so amusing?
- 18) What horrific scene ensues between the zebra and the hyena?
- 19) Who tries to defend the zebra?
- 20) What uninvited visitors does the zebra's blood attract?
- 21) What does Pi lose hope about at the end of the chapter?
- 22) What surprising thing does Pi discover in the morning?
- 23) How does Pi underestimate Orange Juice?
- 24) Why is it impossible for Orange Juice to defeat the hyena?
- 25) How does Orange Juice die?
- 26) What surprising thing does Pi discover at the end of the chapter?
- 27) Summarize the story about the murderous panther that terrorized the Khulna district of Bangladesh.
- 28) How does Richard Parker get his name?
- 29) What was his name supposed to be?
- 30) Why does Pi perk up when he discovers Richard Parker?
- 31) According to Pi, which is worse: hunger, suffocation, or thirst? Why?
- 32) Why is Pi no longer afraid of the hyena?
- 33) Why does Richard Parker's presence explain the hyena's behavior?

- 34) How does Pi account for Richard Parker's passivity up to this point?
- 35) Describe the life boat. 90.
- 36) What color dominates on the life boat (hint: Pi describes it as "a nice Hindu color")?
- 37) What does Pi find in the locker and how does it change his mood?
- 38) Describe what Pi means when he says "the notion of details that become lifesavers" (pg. 140).
- 39) What is the last thing mentioned on the list of things on the lifeboat?
- 40) What does Pi build to help ensure his survival?
- 41) How does he build this thing
- 42) What happens to the hyena?
- 43) What does Pi do with the rat that is onboard the life boat?
- 44) What are the six plans that Pi comes up with to get rid of Richard Parker? Which one becomes the plan he decides on and why?
- 45) Why will his plan for Richard Parker fail?

Chapters 56 - 70

- 1) What does Pi say is "life's only true opponent"?
- 2) What does Pi say comes "to do battle for you" against this opponent?
- 3) What is a prusten? What does it mean?
- 4) Why does the prusten calm Pi down?
- 5) What is Pi's new plan?
- 6) Why is Pi grateful for Richard Parker?
- 7) What is Pi able to notice moving slowly through the ocean that cargo ships miss because they move too fast?
- 8) What is the first thing Pi tries as bait while fishing?
- 9) On page 180, Pi mistakenly thinks Richard Parker has hit him—what actually hits him?
- 10) Describe Pi's emotions the first time he has to kill a fish.

- 11) Compare and contrast Pi's emotions when he kills the flying fish for bait and when he kills the dorado that he catches while fishing.
- 12) What pleasant and unexpected thing does Pi discover about the solar stills?
- 13) At the end of the chapter, how long has Pi been at sea?
- 14) How long does Pi tell us that he survived at sea altogether?
- 15) On page 190, what does Pi say is "one key to his survival"?
- 16) How does Richard Parker provide a sense of entertainment for Pi?
- 17) What are the dates that Pi is at sea (from what date to what date)?
- 18) What eventually happens to Pi's clothes?
- 19) What does the salt water do to his skin?
- 20) How do the gaff and cargo net improve Pi's success as a fisherman?
- 21) Compare Pi and Richard Parker's ability to sleep at sea.
- 22) What does the smell of the hand-flare shells remind Pi of?
- 23) Describe Pi's first experience killing a turtle.

Chapters 71 - 86

- 1) Describe how Pi trains Richard Parker.
- 2) What does Pi use as a shield while training Richard Parker?
- 3) Other than salvation, what is the one thing Pi wishes he had?
- 4) Whose birthday does Pi recognize in this short chapter?
- 5) How does Pi establish his dominance with Richard Parker in this chapter? How does he know it is working?
- 6) What becomes Pi's favorite dish at sea?
- 7) What is the one thing Pi's body cannot
- 8) tolerate?
- 9) What desperate and disgusting thing does Pi resort to eating at the end of this chapter?
- 10) What does Pi say are the "worst pair of opposites" (pg. 217)?

- 11) Describe the “epic battle” between Richard Parker and the mako shark that Pi brought on board.
- 12) Pi says that if you hold a cat’s stare it will NOT do something—what will it not do?
- 13) What becomes more precious to Pi than “gold, sapphires, rubies, and diamonds” (pg. 224)?
- 14) What does Pi say was the worst form of suffering that he endured at sea?
- 15) At the end of the chapter, what does Pi notice about how his eating habits have changed?
- 16) What causes Pi to close himself in the life boat with Richard Parker?
- 17) What does Pi lose in this chapter?
- 18) What fortunately is not damaged?
- 19) What is the thing Pi finds at the end of the chapter that is “all that remained between me [Pi] and death” (pg. 229)?
- 20) What happens with the ship that Pi spots in this chapter?
- 21) How does Pi feel about Richard Parker at the end of this chapter?

Chapters 87 - 91

- 1) What does Pi do as a means of escape in this chapter?
- 2) What means of communication does Pi attempt at the end of this chapter?
- 3) Why does Pi touch Richard Parker for the first time in this chapter?
- 4) What does Pi run out of so that he can no longer keep a journal?
- 5) What affliction has come over both Richard Parker and Pi?
- 6) Pi hears a voice—what do they first talk about?
- 7) Who does Pi think the voice is at first? What does he ask the voice? What does the voice answer?
- 8) What does Pi notice about the voice that makes it impossible that it is who he first thinks it is (the answer to number 149)? Who is the voice actually?
- 9) The voice comes aboard the lifeboat—what does he do to Pi?
- 10) What does Richard Parker do to the voice?
- 11) What did the visitor lie about?

- 12) What returned in two days?
- 13) Why could Pi never find out the true identity of the visitor?
- 14) What two despicable acts does Pi confess to at the end of the chapter?

Chapters 92 - 95

- 1) What amazing botanical discovery does Pi make?
- 2) What is Pi's favorite color (hint: it is also the color of Islam)?
- 3) What delicious treat does Pi discover?
- 4) What small animal does Pi discover in bountiful supply?
- 5) What does this animal do that Pi finds so surprising?
- 6) Why are the fish in the ponds dead? What causes this phenomenon?
- 7) Are these small animals (number 160) afraid of Richard Parker? Why or why not?
- 8) Why does Richard Parker kill more than he eats?
- 9) Describe the island and the effect the island has on Pi and Richard Parker.
- 10) What "trick" does Pi teach Richard Parker to do in order to maintain his mastery over him?
- 11) The first night Pi sleeps on the island, where does he decide the safest place is to sleep?
- 12) What visitors does Pi get that night? Do they harm Pi in any way?
- 13) Where does Richard Parker sleep throughout their stay on the island?
- 14) One night Pi wakes up to see one of the ponds FULL of dead fish. When he wakes the next morning, what does he notice?
- 15) Pi discovers one fruit bearing tree in the middle of the island, but upon closer examination he notes that it is not fruit that the tree bears--what is it? What is in the middle of it?
- 16) What horrifying conclusion does Pi make? How does he test this theory (2 ways)?
- 17) Who does Pi turn to at the end of this chapter?
- 18) Where do Pi and Richard Parker finally land?
- 19) Why is Pi so upset during this chapter? What does he regret?

20) How does Pi say the officials treat him at the end of the chapter?

Chapters 96 - End

- 1) What do Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Chiba want to know from Pi?
- 2) What do the Japanese officials give Pi that he is very happy about?
- 3) What happens in chapter 97?
- 4) How do the Japanese officials react to Pi's story?
- 5) What does Mr. Chiba complain that Pi has in his bed sheets?
- 6) What is the first thing the Japanese officials say is wrong with Pi's story? How does he prove them wrong?
- 7) What are a few more details about Pi's story that the Japanese officials do not believe? How does Pi answer them?
- 8) The officials ask for a story without animals and Pi gives them one. The following questions relate to that story:
 - a. What is the story?
 - b. How does Pi feel about the story?
 - c. How does the cook feel about the story?
 - d. How does Mr. Chiba feel about the story?
 - e. How does Mr. Okamoto feel about the story?
- 9) How many people survive the disaster?
 - a. Who are they?
 - b. What animal does each person represent?
 - c. What does the cook convince Pi and his mother to do? What is his real intention in doing this?
 - d. How is Pi sucked into the cook's negative influence?
 - e. What terrible thing does the cook do that repulses Pi's mother? Pi and his mother do not do this thing, but what do they do that is related to this act?
 - f. Why does the cook hit Pi? What is his mother's reaction?
 - g. What does the cook throw at Pi?
- 10) What happens to the cook?
- 11) What does Pi reveal to the Japanese officials about the state of the crew on the Tsimtsum?
- 12) Since the details of his story do not shed any light on the sinking of the Tsimtsum, Pi asks which version the Japanese officials prefer—which story do they choose?
- 13) What is Pi's response to their choice (find his exact words).
- 14) What surprising detail does Mr. Okamoto include in the last line of his report?