



English 2 Honors
Summer Reading Assignment 2023
Questions? Email Mrs. McKeagney emckeagney@jserra.org

Read Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*
and complete the three-part assignment.

Life of Pi is a relatively easy book to read; however, it offers extraordinary through-provoking opportunities. The story is compelling, and its conflict is intriguing. On the surface, this is a novel about a character who gets lost at sea. He relies on another character to help him try to survive. He shares his story with a journalist. On a deeper level, it's "a story that will make you believe in God."

You will read the novel for the story, of course, but you will also enjoy it as a work of art. Some books are written just to be read – for entertainment – and some are written to be studied and discussed for their literary value.

Here's your three-part assignment:

Part I: Read and Annotate

- a) **Language:** Always read with a pen in your hand. As you read, ***underline powerful quotes*** throughout the novel. This novel abounds with beautifully written passages. Because this is a masterful piece of work, you could be underlining on every page. Quotes can be powerful for their:

Intellectual Challenge (IC)
Thematic Relevance (TR)
Character Development (CD)

Poignant Humor (PH)
Striking Imagery (SI)
Compelling Symbolism (CS)

- b) **Imagery:** Mark with an ***asterisk every scene in which the imagery is exceptional***, where the vivid imagery came alive as you were reading.

Part II – Dialectical Journal

When you have finished the entire novel, go back and ***choose 10 of your underlined quotes***, and copy them into a dialectical journal. I have provided a sample on the last page of this assignment. Follow these guidelines:

- Select a total of 10 quotes (no more no less).
- Quotes should be no longer than three sentences.
- Your 10 quote selections should represent the span of the entire novel.
- Order your quotes chronologically.
- Label each quote with the codes provided above.
- Explain the powerful quality of each quote in no more than two sentences.
- Maintain third person voice (not “I” or “you” statements).
- Write in literary present tense.
- Type in MLA format, including the header, heading, font, and margins. Journal entries may be single spaced.

Part III – Close Reading and Visualization

This novel is replete with beautiful imagery. Cherish it; soak in it. *Select one of the scenes you asterisked and draw it out* on a blank sheet of paper. Before you protest your lack of artistic ability, please know that I am probably a worse visual artist than you, but I try. I am not qualified to grade your artistic ability; I am qualified to assess your reading accuracy and your effort.

DO NOT draw a picture that is identical to a scene in the movie. DO NOT simply draw a tiger or a lifeboat or an ocean. Draw a well-described *scene* (the tiger or lifeboat may be part of the scene) that proves you read and re-read the section carefully. You must provide the page number(s) for your scene. Use color if appropriate; or simply pencil sketch in detail.

A Note on Using other Sources

The Movie: You may of course watch the movie, but I would suggest watching it after you’ve read the novel. Martel’s imagery is so strong that you don’t need someone else’s pictures in your head while you’re reading. Be aware there are crucial differences between the novel and the movie, and you will be tested on the novel.

The Internet: Do not get your ideas from the internet. Do not waste your time by simply reading the Shmoop summaries, or by googling “Life of Pi difference between book and movie.” Two reasons:

1. I’ll know. I’ve been teaching long enough to know when an answer comes from the internet and not from a teenager. The Shmoop answers are trite and boring. Also, I’ve already read every website on this book (and its movie).
2. Your brain is quite magnificent. Give it a chance. I guarantee you that your own thoughts are far more imaginative than any “right” answer you’ll get from the internet.

What to expect within first three days of school:

- Submit paper copies of your Dialectical Journal and your illustration (first day of school).
- Upload your Dialectical Journal to TurnItIn.com through Schoology.
- Take an objective test.
- Participate in a scored discussion.
- Write a literary analysis essay.

Failure to complete the summer assignment on time will preclude you from honors eligibility.

Hermione Granger

Mrs. McKeagney

English 2H

14 August 2023

Dialectical Journal for *Life of Pi*

	Page #	Passage (1-3 sentences)	Code(s)	Response (1-2 sentences)
1	3	My zoology thesis was a functional analysis of the thyroid gland of the three-toed sloth. I chose the sloth because its demeanor – calm, quiet, and introspective – did something to soothe my shattered self.	CS TR	Pi can appreciate the sloth for its virtues, and because it is symbolic of faith. Also, Pi learned to be a patient man through his ordeal.
2	69	“Bapu Ghandi said, ‘All religions are true.’ I just want to love God,” I blurted out, and looked down, red in the face.	IC TR	Pi asserts the fundamental need and function of all religions – to simply love God. His faith stands to him during his trials.
3				
4				
etc.				

Note:

Stick to the proscribed length limitations. I will mark you down for overwriting.
You may not use the quotes used above in your journal.