

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

English 10 Honors Summer Homework 2024

Welcome to Honors English! Honors English 10 Summer assignment: You are to read *The Life of Pi* during the summer and come to class on the first day of school with your completed assignments printed out! On the first day of school, you must submit your typed assignments to turnitin.com, so make sure they are saved on your Google Drive!

There will be other assessments based on this novel during the first weeks of school (test/in-class essay) so you will want to make sure that you take notes to study while you read. If you read the book early in the summer, you may want to review it before the first week of school. This book is available to pick up at the THS bookroom before the end of the school year, BEFORE finals week! If you do not pick it up before school ends you must purchase it online, borrow it from the Stanislaus County Library, or find it for free through various online sources. If you have questions you can contact either Mrs. Lonergan at nlonergan@turlock.k12.ca.us or Ms. Hruby at mhruby@turlock.k12.ca.us.

You have two separate assignments for the novel - they need to be TWO SEPARATE DOCUMENTS! MLA format is required for both assignments, both in the set up of the document AND for citations.

Important Note: You are to also read the "Author's Note" at the beginning of the book as it is an essential part of the story and not something additional.

Life of Pi Project - Part One: Dialectical Journal

In this section, you will be thinking about various writing strategies that Yann Martel uses in his novel by gathering and analyzing quotes that are quality examples of specific "literary devices." As you read, create a chart like the example below by choosing different devices from the list and explaining why you think the author employs this strategy. In other words, you are making an argument about the effects and purposes of this device in the greater context of the novel.

You will need a total of 10 entries in your dialectical journal - 4 entries from Part One and 6 entries from Part Two (no entries needed for Part Three). **Each entry should be a minimum of 100 words and should not exceed 200 words!**

Literary Devices of Prose: Point of view, tone, diction, imagery, figurative language (simile, metaphor, alliteration, or others), repetition, symbolism, irony, humor, allusion, characterization

*Please choose a different literary device for every box in a section (meaning you can repeat a literary device used in Part One in Part Two), and if you're not familiar with the definition of one, Google it!

Example:

Literary Device	Properly cited quote	Effect and/or purpose of the literary device captured in this quote
Characterization	"I just want to love God," I blurted out, and looked down, red in the face" (Martel 92).	This statement and emotional reaction from Pi is a perfect illustration of many aspects of his character: his sensitivity, his devout religious convictions, and his pluralistic attitude towards multiple religions.

Life of Pi Project - Part Two: Written Short Responses

Time to think deep! Please choose **three of the following prompts**, and write one-paragraph responses to each chosen prompt and include **at least one properly cited quote** in your response. Your responses should be written with a clear paragraph structure including a clear topic sentence (that answers the prompt), introduction and integration or evidence, and analysis.

You can complete them at any time throughout your reading, but many of them were designed to be considered after you finish the book. So, watch out for spoilers in some of the prompts, and do your best to answer these questions on your own, without the help of online sources! All of your responses should be typed in the same document in MLA format, and you need to identify or label which prompt you are responding to!

1. Judging from the amount of time the author spends discussing zoos and zookeeping at the beginning of the novel, this is clearly an important foundational idea to Martel. How do you think the motif of zoos—and the theme of “boundaries” in general—influences the novel as a whole?
2. Many have compared the physical and spiritual journey of Pi on the lifeboat to the experiences of religious ascetics, like those of monks from various religious traditions. Do a bit of research on religious asceticism and the desert fathers, and discuss connections that can be made between them and the story of Pi.
3. What could be argued as Richard Parker’s, the tiger, symbolic significance? Consider why Richard Parker seems so essential to Pi’s survival on the lifeboat and why Richard Parker is simultaneously characterized as Pi’s best friend and worst enemy.
4. One of the most fantastical and mysterious parts of the book is the “algae island” on which Pi and Richard Parker find themselves at the end of Part 2. Keeping in mind the religious and psychological themes of the book, what would you argue is the symbolic significance of this strange island?
5. Consider the literary quest archetype/pattern. How could this story be read as a quest narrative? What sort of internal and external quests can be identified in the book?
6. Which of Pi’s stories is the “true”one? How do you know?