

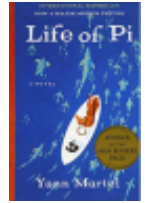
English IV

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Teacher: Mr. McCarthy: dmccarthy@salesian.com

REQUIRED READING

Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Please purchase a paperback version using this text: 2002. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 348 pages. ISBN-13: 9780156030205. The cover looks like this:



Summary: *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel, is a fantasy adventure novel. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor, who self-names himself as "Pi" Patel, explores unknown terrain of the physical, emotional, and spiritual world, seeking truth and stability on his own. From an early age, Pi explores stories of mythology and religion; his spiritual life fascinates him. This novel shows his heroic journey of self-growth; he asks the tough, important questions about oneself and one's life while exploring faith, hope, and doubt.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Read the entire book. You will need to bring the book to class on the first day of school.
2. As you read, underline or highlight passages in the book that stand out to you.
3. Then, choose three of those quotes (passages) from the book that are important to you personally or that are important to the book's message or plot. Type these quotes exactly as they appear in the text and write the chapter and page number. Beneath each typed quote, explain the context of it, as well as why it is important to the overall novel.
4. Lastly, answer the following discussion questions by typing them on a document. Your responses must be thorough, thoughtful, and well written. These are not meant to be single sentence responses.

Discussion Questions

1. Identify the main idea of the novel. Explain how this is established in the book.
2. Identify the point of view of the book and explain the effect it has on the book.
3. Explain what the word 'spiritual' means to you. Explain your own path towards (or away from) your own spirituality.
4. Is there a connection between storytelling and religion? Explain. Why is this religious story told as fiction?
5. Pi has a turning point that marks his shift from youth to adulthood. What event(s) has marked your coming of age? Explain.
6. What role does doubt play in your own life? Explain.

All your writing must be typed according to MLA format. Use an MLA heading on the left top corner of your document. Write YOUR NAME, TEACHER NAME, CLASS NAME, DATE. Title your document "Summer Reading". You will submit your work digitally to Turnitin.com, so your responses must be authentic.

The assignment is due on the first day of school.