

## Summer Reading Assignments

### English 3

All assignments are due on the first day of class and will be turned in through canvas. Be prepared to be tested on the reading material the first week of school.

**Novel:** Life of Pi by Yann Martel

- **Potential Sensitivity Issues:** Murder; cannibalism; animal death
- **Protagonist/Central Conflict:** Sixteen-year-old Pi Patel, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan, and a large Royal Bengal tiger are stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean after their cargo ship sinks. When only Pi and the tiger are left, they must coexist until their rescue 227 days later. Pi tells his two stories to the authorities, but which is to be believed?
- Essay Rubric:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oycbqLSPpKC8ZQ3CGxDzicyX7YXD2KrT/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104831359813127444630&rtpof=true&sd=true>

### Comprehension and Organizational Assignments

1. Please fill out the plot graph using complete sentences and well-thought-out answers. Follow the directions stated on the worksheet.
  - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-GiW0pijvI2en7IJry1uYxxDzWIFdKw-/view?usp=sharing>

### Student Prompt

- Write a short (1-3 paragraph) response using **one** of the bulleted outlines below. Cite details from the text over the course of your response that serve as examples and support. Your responses should be well-thought out, with formal or academic style writing. Your responses should not sound like you are testing with a friend. Please use proper grammar and complete sentences. **12pt. font and Times New Roman, double spaced**
1. Pi describes freedom within the confines of the zoo, religion, and lack of chaos.
    - How does Pi define freedom? (*topic sentence*)
    - Explain how Pi defines freedom in relation to the zoo and in relation to religion. Then explain how Pi justifies his assertion when animals choose to escape the confines of the zoo—and presumably, when people escape the confines of religion.

- In your concluding sentence or sentences, explain whether you agree with Pi's definition of what it means to be free.

2. Ritual is an important aspect of Pi's life as it manifests itself in multiple ways throughout his narrative.

- How does ritual pervade the narrative of *Life of Pi*? (*topic sentence*)
- Explain the religious rituals that are performed by Pi, how those rituals change after Pi is stranded, and the meaning Pi derives from the rituals he participates in.
- In your concluding sentence or sentences, explain the impact of Pi's journey across the ocean on his **Religious Beliefs and Practice**.

3. So much of *Life of Pi* is about failed communication.

- What does Pi identify as the problem with communication? (*topic sentence*)
- Explain what Pi identifies as the problem with communication, why he believes communication is rarely objective, and how it is connected to Pi's philosophy of life.
- In your concluding sentence or sentences, explain whether you believe Pi makes a valid point about the failings of communication.

### **Crafting a Thesis Statement**

- Your thesis statement will be used to write an argumentative essay in the beginning of the year. It does not have to be perfect, as we will be reviewing and revising together in class! Remember a thesis statement should make your stance clear, give the reader a preview of your argument, and grab attention!
- Remember a thesis statement should be a minimum of one sentence but can be up to three.

Create a thesis statement responding to both of the following prompts:

1. In *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, Pi argues that Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Chiba should take the "better story" as the true story. In your opinion, the is the first or the second story is the "true story." Use specific quotes and examples from the novel to support your opinion.
2. Pi's early life is spent primarily dealing with animals in his father's zoo where his father repeatedly reminds Pi not to anthropomorphize the animals. Pi, however, makes several connections between animals and humans in *Life of Pi*. What are the strongest

comparisons made between humans and animals in the novel? Why does Pi use zoo animals as a metaphor for his journey? What does each of the animals have in common, symbolically speaking, with the humans they represent, and how can these be evidenced in the novel? How does Pi himself emulate animalistic behavior?