



education

Department:

Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CURRICULUM GRADE 10 -12 DIRECTORATE

NCS (CAPS)

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

GRADE 12

LEARNER SUPPORT DOCUMENT

FOR THE NOVEL *LIFE OF PI*

JUST IN TIME (JIT) PROGRAMME

MARCH 2024



INTRODUCTION

Life of Pi, penned by Yann Martel, is a captivating novel that weaves together themes of survival, faith, storytelling, and the essence of human nature.

This guide aims to assist you in understanding the novel Life of Pi. It provides you with a graphic summary of the plot and a series of tasks and activities which must be completed by you in order for you to better understand the novel.




JIT RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM – MAY 2024


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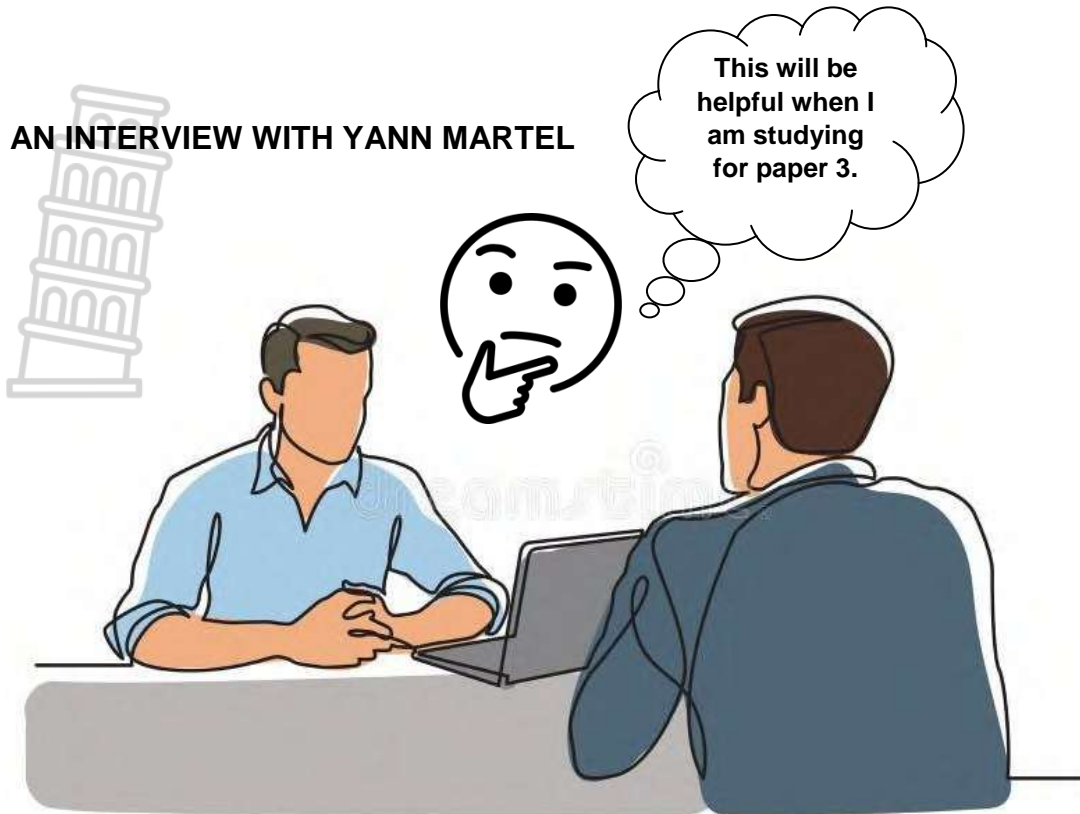


KNOW THE AUTHOR OF THE NOVEL *LIFE OF PI*

Yann Martel



Yann Martel was born in Spain to French-Canadian parents. Martel's father worked as a diplomat, and the family moved to Costa Rica, France, Mexico, and Canada during Martel's childhood. He grew up speaking both French and English. Martel studied philosophy at Trent University in Ontario, and later spent a year in India visiting religious sites and zoos. His first three books received little critical or popular attention, but with the publication of *Life of Pi* in 2001 Martel became internationally famous, and he was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2002.



CNN: What does Canada mean to you?

Yann Martel: It means a place where I can be at home while still sometimes feeling I'm abroad. Canada has two official languages and two founding colonial cultures, but nothing else official. In that, to be Canadian is a state of mind.

CNN: Has the country inspired and/or informed your work?

YM: Yes, by making me open to stories that come from anywhere and are set anywhere. Canada is very tolerant of diverse voices. I remember when I won the Booker Prize in 2002, half the shortlist of six was Canadian.

CNN: Our book club read the book last month, and wondered if there were more "mystic" puns such as the use of Tsimtsum [the Jewish mystical term for God's withdrawal] as the ship's name? By the way, I was delighted to find out that "prusten" (a noisy sound used by tigers as a greeting) is a real word, and it seems to work with my cat.

YM: I don't know whether they would qualify as mystic puns, but:

I chose Pi as my main character's nickname because Pi, the number used so often in mathematics and engineering, is an irrational number; that is, a number that goes on forever without any visible pattern. It struck me that a number used to come to a rational, scientific understanding of things should be called "irrational." I thought religion is like that, too: It's something "irrational" that helps make sense of things. Along the same lines, I named my main character after a swimming pool to play on a

contrast. A swimming pool ("piscine" in French) is a rectangular volume of water, a controlled volume of water. I liked the irony of a boy named after a rational volume of water being adrift in an uncontrollable volume of water, the Pacific. The two Mister Kumars — one the science teacher, the other the mystic baker — and the zebra. One archetypal man — Kumar is a very common name in India, one reality — a Grant's zebra, two understandings of that reality — one transcendental ("Allahu akbar," God is great), the other materialist (*Equus burchelle boehmi*, the scientific name for a Grant's zebra).

CNN: What a wondrous book! Is any of this story [Life of Pi] true?

YM: Of course it's a true story. All good art is true.

CNN: Where and when did you get the idea to write this story [Life of Pi]? Do these kinds of ideas just hit you when you least expect it, or do you search for them when you feel like it's time to write another book?

YM: I think creativity is sometimes a question of being open. For Life of Pi that openness started in 1990 when I happened to read a review of a novel by a Brazilian writer named Moacyr Scliar. The review mentioned in passing that part of the novel took place in a lifeboat where the main character is stranded with a wild animal. I thought, "What a wondrous premise. I could do something with that." But the book was written, so I moved on. I completely forgot that review. Seven years later I was in India, meaning to work on a novel set in Portugal, much as I describe in the Author's Note. But that novel wasn't coming alive. I put it aside — and fell into despondency. What had I done with my life? Where was it going? The usual lamentations about a life unlived. Quick, quick, I need a story, said my unconscious. That's when India spoke to me, India where gods and animals abound and rub shoulders, India where all stories are possible. Suddenly, that long ago premise burst into my consciousness and Life of Pi tumbled into my imagination. The whole novel came to me in twenty minutes, half an hour, story, theme, incidents, everything: the family, the zoo, the ship, the sinking, the blind Frenchman, the island, the Japanese, the two stories, the idea that life is an interpretation, that between us and reality lies our imagination, which shapes our vision of reality and why not believe the better story, etc.





Downloaded From Stanmorephysics.com The Author's Note & Part 1



The Author's Note & Part 1

Pi is raised culturally Hindu, but his family is generally unreligious. As a youth Pi becomes devoutly Hindu and then converts to Christianity and Islam. He practices all three religions at once, despite the protests of his parents and the religious leaders.

3

A fictional author travels to India, he hears an extraordinary story from Francis Adirubasamy in a coffee shop.

The author tracks down and interviews Piscine Molitor Patel, usually called Pi.

The author writes the rest of the narrative from Pi's point of view.

1

His father warns him of the danger of wild animals by making Pi watch a tiger eat a goat, but Pi also learns that "the most dangerous animal at a zoo is Man."

..THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN A ZOO IS MAN

2

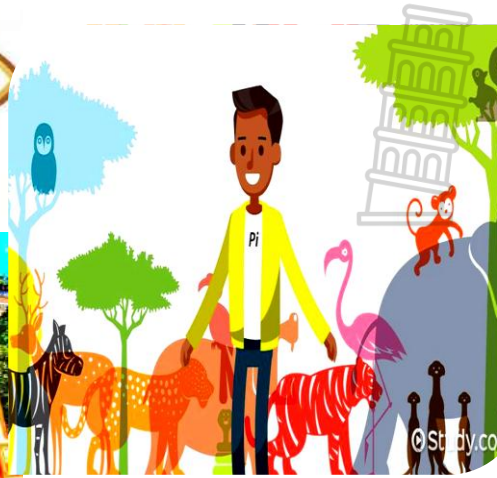


4

The "Emergency" brings political turmoil to India and Pi's parents decide to sell the zoo and move the family to Canada.

Pi grows up in Pondicherry, India in the 1970s. He is named after a famous swimming pool in Paris. Pi's father is a zookeeper, and Pi and his brother Ravi are raised among exotic wild animals. Pi's tale frequently digresses to explain about zookeeping, animal territories, and boundaries.

YANN MARTEL



P.M: Nothing to panic about



- Pi is on board the Tsimtsum, traveling with his family and many of the zoo animals.
- There is an explosion one night and the Tsimtsum starts sinking.

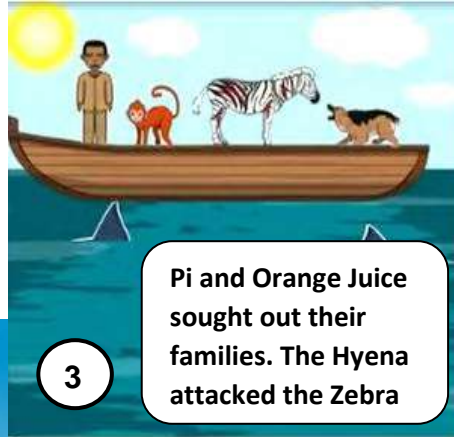


- Pi is awake at the time, and some sailors throw him into a lifeboat.
- The ship sinks, leaving no human survivors except for Pi.

1

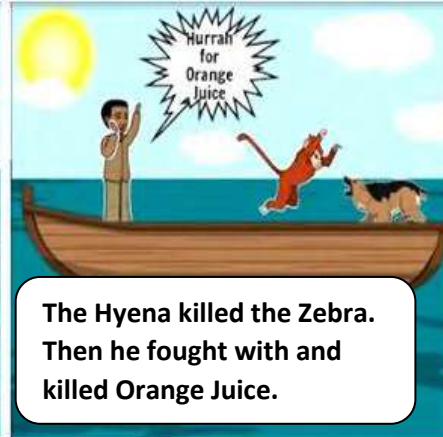


Pi sees a tiger, Richard Parker, and encourages him to climb aboard. Pi eventually finds himself on the lifeboat with a zebra, a hyena, and Orange Juice the orang-utan.



Pi and Orange Juice sought out their families. The Hyena attacked the Zebra

3



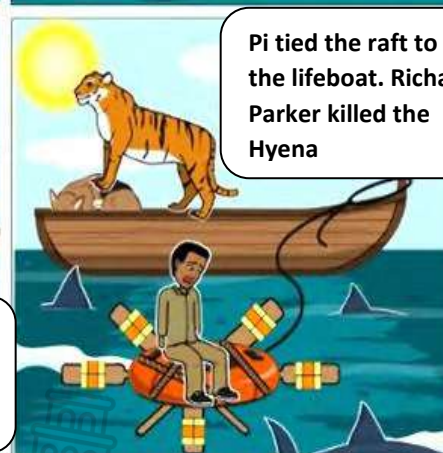
The Hyena killed the Zebra. Then he fought with and killed Orange Juice.



Pi prepared to kill the Hyena when the Tiger Richard Parker appeared.



Pi built a raft as he was afraid of Richard Parker.



Pi tied the raft to the lifeboat. Richard Parker killed the Hyena



Pi decided to keep Richard Parker alive and train him. He used a whistle.

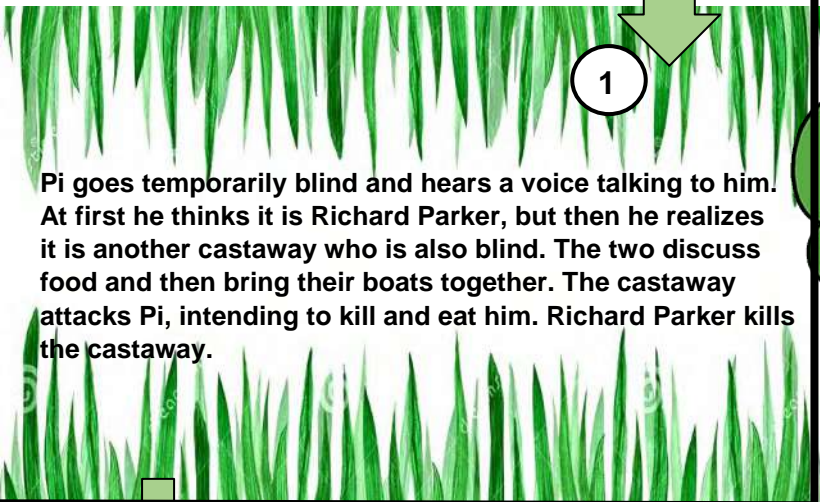


Pi sets about marking his territory and "taming" Richard Parker using a whistle. Pi kills and eats fish and turtles, filters seawater, and collects rainwater.

4

PART 2

ALGAE ISLAND



1

Pi goes temporarily blind and hears a voice talking to him. At first he thinks it is Richard Parker, but then he realizes it is another castaway who is also blind. The two discuss food and then bring their boats together. The castaway attacks Pi, intending to kill and eat him. Richard Parker kills the castaway.

2

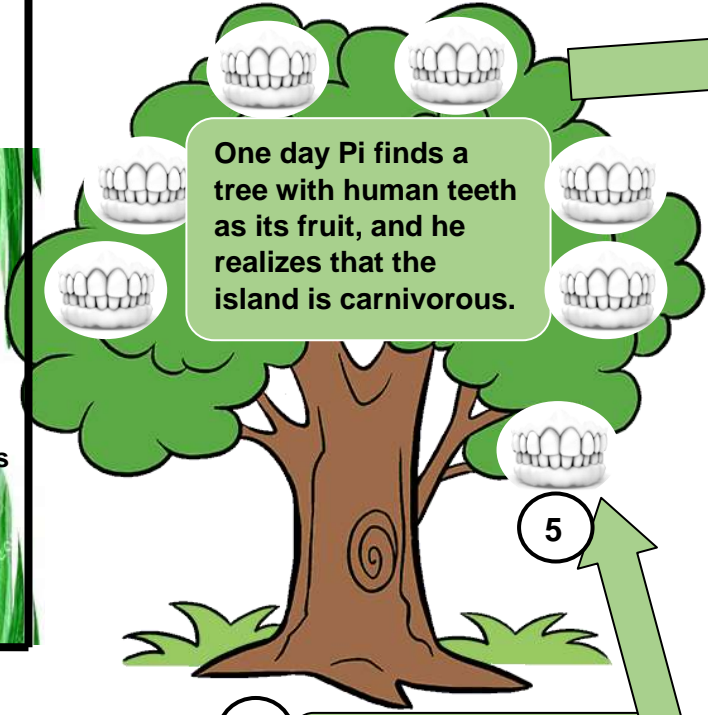
Later the boat comes to a mysterious island made entirely of algae.

3

The island is inhabited by thousands of meerkats.

4

Pi and Richard Parker stay there for a while and recover their health.



5

6

Pi decides to leave with Richard Parker. Finally the lifeboat washes up on a beach in Mexico. Richard Parker disappears into the jungle without looking back. Pi is rescued by some villagers.

7



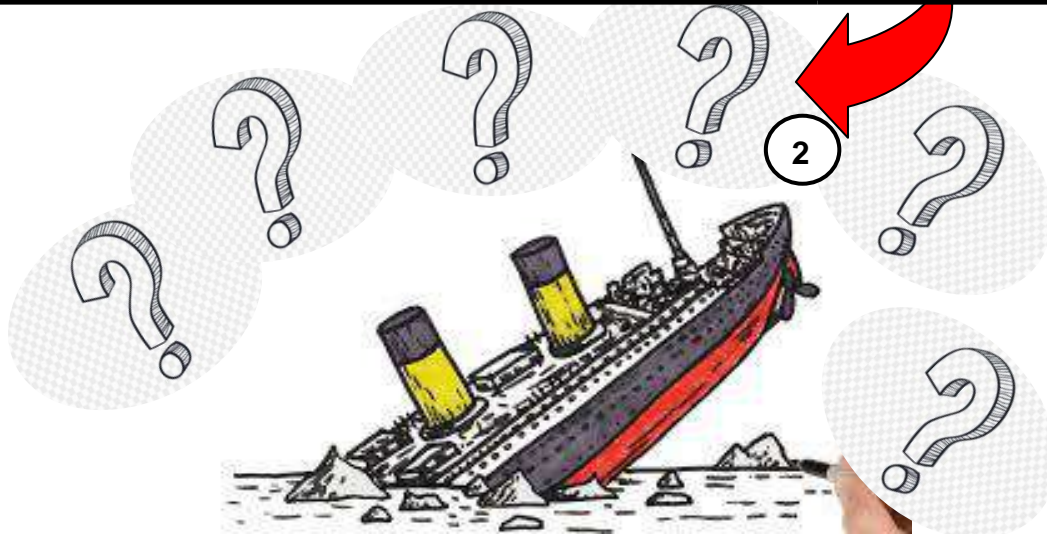
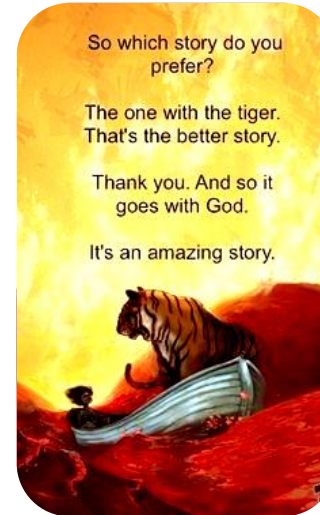


1

- Part 3 is a transcript of an interview between Pi and two Japanese officials who are trying to figure out why the Tsimtsum sank.



Part 3



2

Pi tells them his story, but they don't believe him. He then tells them a second story, replacing the animals with humans. In this version Pi is on the lifeboat with a French cook, a Chinese sailor, and his own mother. The sailor dies and the cook eats his flesh. The cook later kills Pi's mother, and then Pi kills the cook. The officials are horrified, but they believe this story.



They note that the hyena is the cook, the zebra is the sailor, Orange Juice is Pi's mother, and Richard Parker is Pi himself. Pi asks the officials which story they prefer, and they say the one with animals. In their final report they commend Pi for surviving at sea with a tiger.

3

4

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TIME TO RECAP THE PLOT OF THE NOVEL

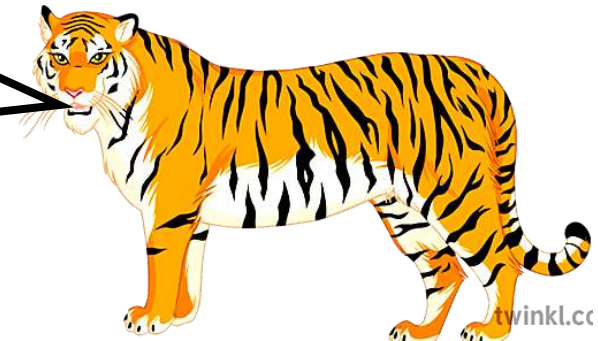


Hi guys! I am Mahisha. I would like you to help me recap the story.

We know that Pi grew up in the South Indian city of Pondicherry in the Zoo which his father owns. We saw that Pi belonged to three religions, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam.



What happened next? What is happening in the picture? It looks like a troop of Indian soldiers.





Why is Pi and his family boarding a ship? Where are they going to? Why are there animals in cages outside the ship?





The next scene looks quite tragic. What happened?





First there is a lifeboat with Pi and animals on it and then it is just Pi and Richard Parker. Please explain this to me.



Is that a raft? How did Pi find a raft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?





Are those fish flying? What in the ocean could be happening there?



Pi is a vegetarian but due to his circumstances he was forced to kill and eat living things. Explain this further by referring to the two pictures below.





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Pi encounters a sense of hope while at sea.
Discuss this further...

Discuss the events as they unfold in the next three pictures below,











Discuss the events as they unfold in the next few pictures below.







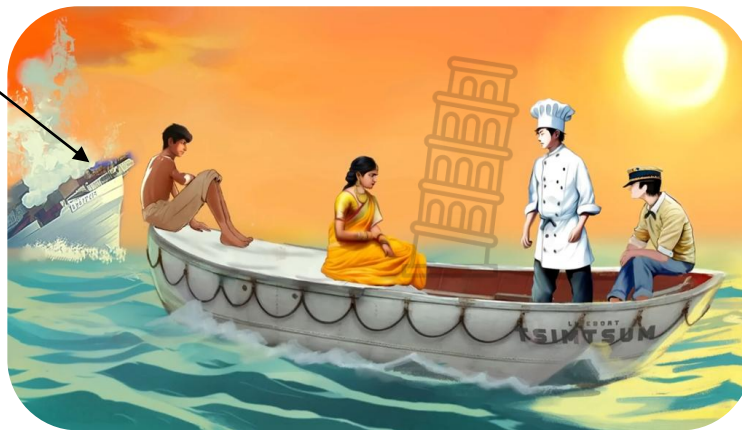
We are almost at the end. Let's bring the story with animals to an end.

Comment on PI's state of mind as depicted in the pictures below.











- Use the board provided in this document.
- Print and cut the cards provided in this document to start playing.
- You will also need to get the following: your own tokens, dice and timer.



RULES OF THE GAME

1. The game is played with two or more teams of at least two players. Each round one player picks a card and has 30 seconds to describe the five characters, symbols, places or instructional verbs written on the card without revealing the card or saying any part of the name.
2. The aim is for their teammates to guess as many correct words on the card as they can within the time limit for the chance to move their team's token towards the finish line.
3. The overall objective of the game is for each team to be the first to move their token from start to finish around the board along a track of alternating blue and yellow squares with decorative pictures featuring characters, symbols and places from the novel *Life of Pi*.
4. Each team selects a token and places it on the START square.
5. At the start of each round, the team throws a special *30 Seconds* die to determine a handicap. The die has six sides with values of 0, 1 or 2. This handicap will be subtracted from the number of correct guesses during that turn to determine how many squares their token may advance, therefore 0 is preferable.
6. Now the team decides on a describer for the turn, while the rest of the team will be identifiers. All players must take their turn at being both describers and identifiers. The describer within a team must rotate with each turn.
7. The describer draws a card and the player will read from the side that corresponds with the colour square their token is on. There are five words printed on each card side.
8. The opposing team then turns over the 30-second timer to begin the describing and guessing. The describer may describe the five words in any order and must use clues related to the novel *Life of Pi*.
9. Finally, the team determines how many squares they move forward by taking the number of correct answers and subtracting the handicap. If the handicap is higher than the correct guesses, the team does not move backwards.
10. The first team to reach the FINISH square is the winner.

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ॐ



START

FINISH



pi



227

π

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | NGER | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | GITA PATEL | |
| | TSIMTSUM | |
| | DISCUSS | |
| | 227 | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | ANTHROPOMORPHISM | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | ATHIEST | |
| | SATHISH KUMAR 2 | |
| | WHISTLE | |
| | COMMENT | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | HINDU | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | CRITICALLY DISCUSS | |
| | RAVI | |
| | YANN MARTEL | |
| | SEA | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | STATE OF EMERGENCY | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | PICINE MOLITOR PATEL | |
| | FLIGHT DISTANCE | |
| | ACCOUNT FOR | |
| | CHRISTIANITY | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | $\pi = 3.14$ | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | PONDICHERRY | |
| | SIGNIFICANCE | |
| | TERRITORIALITY | |
| | RICHARD PARKER | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | LIFE OF PI | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | THE AUTHOR | |
| | STATE OF MIND | |
| | INDIA | |
| | ZOO | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | FRANCIS ADIRUBASAMY | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | RELIGION | |
| | TONE | |
| | SURVIVAL | |
| | TURTLE BLOOD | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | ADVERSITY | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | COLOUR ORANGE | |
| | SANTHOSH PATEL | |
| | LIFE BOAT | |
| | MOOD | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | VEGETARIANISM | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | PACIFIC OCEAN | |
| | PEACEFUL | |
| | EXPLAIN | |
| | SATHISH KUMAR 2 | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | CONTRAST | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | ALGAE ISLAND | |
| | MAMAJI | |
| | CANNIBALISM | |
| | THE BETTER STORY | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | ATTITUDE | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | ISLAM | |
| | TOMOHIRO OKAMOTO | |
| | DRY YEASTLESS FACTUALITY | |
| | HUMAN TEETH | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | HYENA | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | AGNOSTICS | |
| | RELATIONSHIP | |
| | STORYTELLING | |
| | BOUNDARIES | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | GOD | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | MEERKATS | |
| | CONTEXT | |
| | ISLAND OF BANANAS | |
| | DRY YEASTLESS FACTUALITY | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | SHA | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | ZEBRA | |
| | INTERVIEW | |
| | IMPLICATION | |
| | CARNIVOROUS | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | SAVAGERY | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | FLYING FISH | |
| | CONTRADICTION | |
| | ORANGE JUICE | |
| | WATER STILL | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | FATHER MARTIN | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | CANADA | |
| | CONVEY | |
| | UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | |
| | SLOTHS | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | SWIMMING | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | THE BLIND CASTAWAY | |
| | AGNOSTIC | |
| | EFFECTIVENESS | |
| | WILD GOAT | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | FRENCH COOK | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | MEXICAN JUNGLE | |
| | KRISHNA | |
| | FAITH | |
| | 1970'S | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | MEENA PATEL | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | ZOOMORPHISM | |
| | TARPAULIN | |
| | SEASICK | |
| | CHINESE SAILOR | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | LIFEBUOY | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | RAIN CATCHERS | |
| | INDIRA GHANDI | |
| | PRUSTEN SOUND | |
| | SURVIVAL MANUAL | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | LIFE JACKET | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | HUNGER | |
| | TURTLE SHELL | |
| | ROCKET FLARE | |
| | DREAM RAG | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | OAR | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | DEPRESSION | |
| | FEAR | |
| | OIL TANKER | |
| | LIND CASTAWAY | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | HUNGER | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | HALLUCINATION | |
| | TEETH | |
| | OMEGA | |
| | TAME | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | DELIRIUM | 30 S E C O N D S |
| | CARNIVOROUS | |
| | SPIRITUAL DEATH | |
| | DESPAIR | |
| | AUNTY ROHINI | |

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|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 30 S E C O N D S | | 30 S E C O N D S |
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| 30 S E C O N D S | | 30 S E C O N D S |
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| | | |

NB: A few additional blank cards have been included for you to add your own words that we may have left out.

ACTIVITY 1 - MATCH COLUMN A WITH COLUMN B

Complete the following activity to test your understanding of the characters in the novel *Life of Pi*

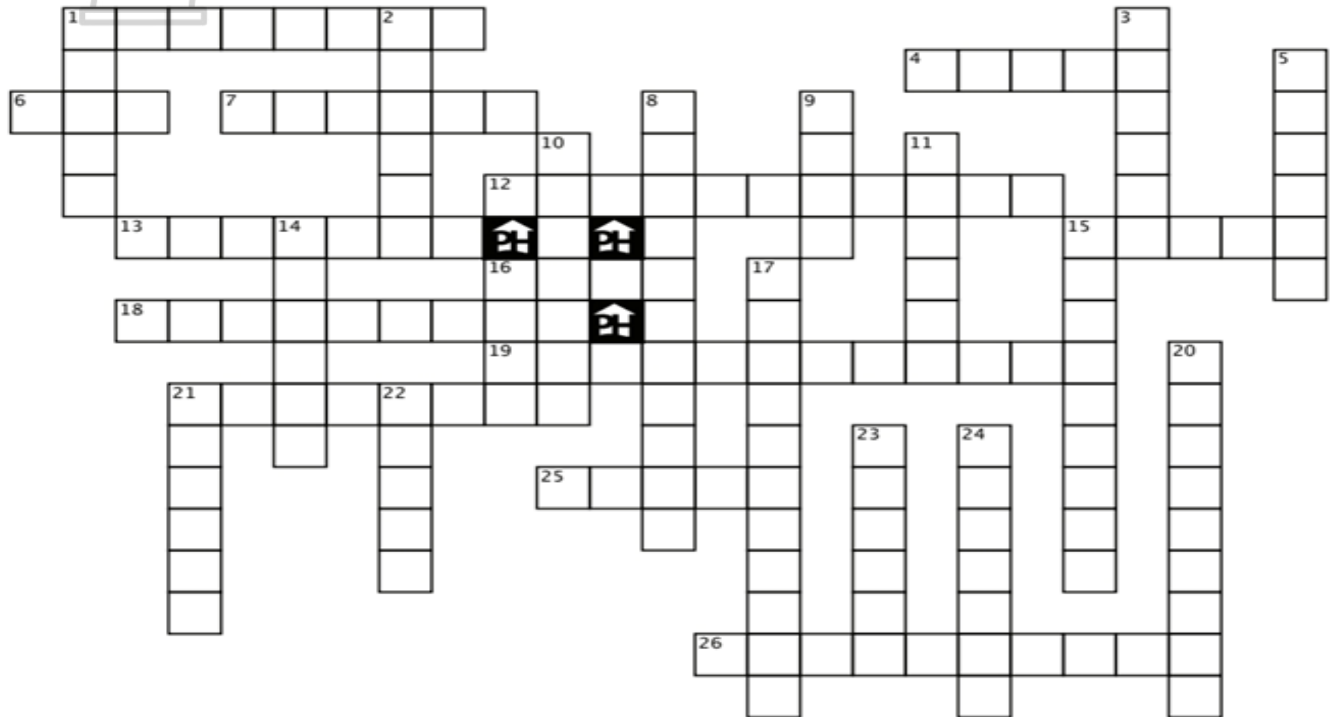
| COLUMN A | COLUMN B |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pi Piscine Molitor Patel | A. Teaches Pi about animal behaviour and to respect animals as savage beasts. |
| 2. Richard Parker | B. In Pi's second story, her alter ego is Orange Juice, the orang-utan. |
| 3. The Author | C. Loves teasing Pi |
| 4. Santosh Patel | D. Teaches Pi how to swim which is why Pi survives when the ship sinks. Gives Pi his full name. |
| 5. Gita Patel | E. Sees nature as an illustration of the logic of science |
| 6. Ravi | F. Inspires Pi to study Religion at college |
| 7. Francis Adirubasamy Mamaji | G. Explains that Christ lived the way He did because of love. |
| 8. Mr Satish Kumar Biology Teacher | H. Reluctant to believe Pi's version of events but after hearing both stories, prefers the one with animals. |
| 9. Mr Satish Kumar Baker | I. His faith and knowledge of animal psychology help him survive 227 days at sea in a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. |
| 10. Father Martin | J. Becomes Pi's nemesis (enemy/rival) as well as his reason to carry on living. |
| 11. Mr Tomohiro Okamoto | K. Interviews adult Pi and describes his home and family life. |
| | |

ACTIVITY 2 – CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword puzzle to improve your understanding of the novel Life of Pi

L I T E R A R Y C R O S S W O R D P U Z Z L E

Life of Pi



Across

1. Pi is born into what religion?
4. Pi's primary concern while adrift at sea
6. The cook amputates the sailor's _____ to use as bait.
7. The Patel family is moving to _____.
12. Pi and Richard Parker leave the island because it is _____.
13. Pi's two requests: a prayer rug and _____
15. Ultimately, Pi decides to _____ the tiger.
16. Who is fascinated by the mechanical workings of the *Tsimtsum*?
18. The blind castaway who tries to kill Pi
19. He serves Pi tea and biscuits when they discuss religion. (2 words)
21. The island is inhabited by thousands of _____.
25. Number of religions Pi practices
26. Pi uses _____ _____ as bait to catch the dorado.

Down

1. Orangutan, tiger, zebra, _____
2. Dangerous animals swimming around the lifeboat
3. Pi's daily ritual
5. The "most dangerous animal[s] in the zoo"
8. Mr. Patel runs a zoo in _____.
9. The Piscine Molitor in Paris
10. Orange Juice floats on "an island of _____."
11. In Pi's alternate story, the orangutan is Pi's _____.
14. No one on this ship notices Pi.
15. The Japanese Ministry of _____
16. Pi builds a(n) _____ to stay safe from Richard Parker.
17. Pi makes a shield out of a(n) _____ _____. (2 words)
20. The political leader Pi's father dislikes (2 words)
21. In what country does Pi finally land?
22. The shared surname of the biology teacher and the Muslim baker
23. He is a champion competitive swimmer.
24. Pi majors in religion and _____ at college.

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ACTIVITY 3 – EXAM TYPE QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions by using the pictures provided as a guide. The first two questions have been answered for you as an example.

Life of Pi Contextual Questions

QUESTION

Refer to line 27: ' "This one's a Grant's zebra," I said.'

Explain the **significance** of the zebra in the context of the novel as a whole. (3)



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ANSWER

In Pi's first story with the animals, a beautiful male Grant's zebra breaks its leg as it jumps into the lifeboat. The zebra is killed by the hyena.

In Pi's second story, the zebra has a human counterpart, the Taiwanese sailor, who breaks his leg while jumping off the sinking ship. He is killed and cannibalised by the French cook after he had cut off his leg.

In both stories, the zebra/sailor is portrayed as helpless/ vulnerable and beautiful to look at but unable to survive in the harsh environment aboard the lifeboat.

Refer to lines 20–21: 'It was the bear-like, balding-looking head of a spotted hyena.'

Comment on the **significance** of the hyena in the context of the novel as a whole. (3)



As scavengers, hyenas prey on those who are perceived as weaker, but are cowardly and afraid of confronting a more powerful adversary.

In the same way, the French cook is cowardly and viciously attacks the injured sailor. The hyena is a reminder of the savagery of which humans are capable when survival is at stake.

In both stories, the hyena/French cook is portrayed as unpredictable, greedy, cunning and vicious.

Refer to lines 13-14: 'it was Orange Juice – so called because she tended to drool – our prize Borneo orang-utan matriarch, zoo start and mother of two fine boys,'

Explain the **significance** of the orangutan in the context of the novel as a whole. (3)



In light of your knowledge of the novel as a whole, discuss the **significance** of Richard Parker's presence on the lifeboat. (3)



Refer to lines 10–11: 'And now I leave matters in the hands of God, who is love and whom I love.'

Discuss the **significance** of spiritual awareness in the context of the novel as a whole. (3)



Refer to line 8: 'I could not abandon Richard Parker.'

Discuss the **significance** of Pi's decision not to abandon Richard Parker. (3)



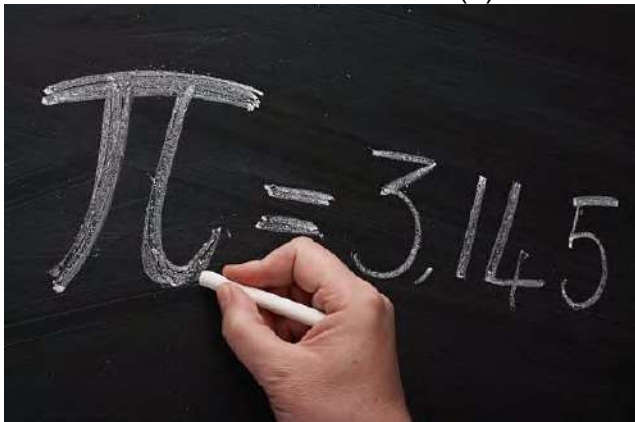
Refer to line 13: 'We each had our end of the lifeboat.'

Discuss the **significance** of maintaining boundaries in the context of the novel. (3)



Refer to lines 18–21: 'I double underlined ... $\pi = 3,14$ '.

Comment on the **significance** of Pi's choice of nickname in the context of the novel as a whole. (3)



Refer to lines 13–15: 'I fumbled for the whistle. When he was twenty-five feet from the lifeboat I blew into the whistle with all my might. A piercing cry split the air. It had the desired effect. Richard Parker braked.'

Explain the **significance** of the whistle in the context of the novel.(3)



Refer to line 7: 'Jesus, Mary, Muhammad and Vishnu'.

Based on your knowledge of the novel as a whole, discuss the **significance** of this reference. (3)

Refer to line 4: 'What was orange became whitish orange.'

Based on your knowledge of the novel as a whole, discuss the **significance** of the orange having faded. (3)

Discuss the **significance** of Mother's role in Pi's second version of the story. (3)



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ACTIVITY 4: LIFE OF PI - ESSAY QUESTION

Pi's strong will to live motivates his selfish and shameful acts however, in the context of the story, many of these acts can be justified.

Critically discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement.

Your response should take the form of a well-constructed essay of 400-450 words (2-2 ½ pages).

[25]

SOME POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- The question asks you to consider **the extent to which** a statement is true: you need to decide whether the statement is **completely true, partially true, or not true at all**.
- **Be careful!** The statement has TWO parts, so your response must consider Pi's strong will to live (survive) and whether or not the acts that he committed in order to survive can be justified or not.
- Remember that *critically discuss* means to evaluate your topic, to analyse and interpret it, to make a judgement and then present an argument and explanation.

Use this planning as a guide:



ACTIVITY 5: LIFE OF PI – CONTEXTUAL QUESTION

Read the extracts below and then answer the questions that follow.

EXTRACT A

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>The hyena was now screaming at top pitch. One last thing to do. “God, give me the time,” I implored. I took the rest of the buoyant line. There was a hole that went through the stem of the boat, near the top. I brought the buoyant rope through it and hitched it. I only had to hitch the other end of the rope to the raft and I might be saved. The hyena fell silent. My heart stopped and then beat triple speed. I turned. “Jesus, Mary, Muhammad and Vishnu!” I saw a sight that will stay with me for the rest of my days. Richard Parker had risen and emerged. He was not fifteen feet from me. Oh, the size of him! The hyena’s end had come, and mine. I stood rooted to the spot, paralyzed, in thrall to the action before my eyes. My brief experience with the relations of unconfined wild animals in lifeboats had made me expect great noise and protest when the time came for bloodshed. But it happened practically in silence. The hyena died neither whining nor whimpering, and Richard Parker killed without a sound. The flame-coloured carnivore emerged from beneath the tarpaulin and made for the hyena. The hyena was leaning against the stern bench, behind the zebra’s carcass, transfixed. It did not put up a fight. Instead it shrank to the floor, lifting a forepaw in a futile gesture of defence. The look on its face was of terror. A massive paw landed on its shoulders. Richard Parker’s jaws closed on the side of the hyena’s neck. Its glazed eyes widened. There was a noise of organic crunching as windpipe and spinal cord were crushed. The hyena shook. Its eyes went dull. It was over. Richard Parker let go and growled. But a quiet growl, private and half-hearted, it seemed. He was panting, his tongue hanging from his mouth. He licked his chops. He shook his head. He sniffed the dead hyena. He raised his head high and smelled the air. He placed his forepaws on the stern bench and lifted himself. His feet were wide apart. The rolling of the boat, though gentle, was visibly not to his liking. He looked beyond the gunnel at the open seas. He put out a low, mean snarl. He smelled the air again. He slowly turned his head. It turned – turned –turned full round – till he was looking straight at me.</p> | <p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p> <p>25</p> |
|--|--|

[Chapter 53]

- 1.1. Account for Pi being in the company of a hyena and Richard Parker on the boat. (3)
- 1.2. Refer to line 10: ‘The hyena’s end had come and mine.’
 To what extent did Pi’s childhood help influence his fear of Richard Parker? (3)
- 1.3. Refer to line 7: ‘Jesus, Mary, Muhammad and Vishnu!’
 Drawing from your understanding of Pi’s character, discuss the relevance of his utterances in this line. (3)

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