

SUMMER READING 2011 STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

Life of Pi

By Yann Martel

Directions: This is close reading practice. As you read each chapter of the novel, please highlight the answers to these questions and number them in the margin. Where necessary, write additional answers in the margin.

PART I

Chapter 1

1. What two things did Pi study at the University of Toronto?

Chapter 3

2. What does Mamaji introduce to the Patel Family?

3. How does Pi get his name (Piscine Molitor)?

Chapter 4

4. When does Pi say is the best time(s) to visit the zoo and why?

5. What are some of the misconceptions Pi says people have about zoos?

Chapter 5

6. Why do the other children make fun of Pi's name?

7. How does Pi stop the teasing?

Chapter 7

8. Who is Mr. Satish Kumar? Where does he work?

9. What are Mr. Kumar's religious views?

Chapter 8

10. What is the most dangerous animal in the zoo? And who are the worst troublemakers at the zoo?

11. How does Mr. Patel teach Pi and Ravi about the dangerous nature of the animals at the zoo?

Chapter 13

12. How does lion-taming work?

Chapter 16

13. What religion is Pi raised with?

Chapter 17

14. What religion does Pi learn about and eventually become fascinated with?

Chapter 18

16. How does Pi get introduced to this new religion that he discovers less than a year later?

Chapter 19

17. What answer does Pi get to "What's your religion about?"

Chapter 20

18. Who is Satish Kumar? And what does Mr. Kumar teach Pi?

Chapter 23

19. How does Pi defend his practice of three religions (hint: it's a quote from Gandhi)?

Chapter 26

20. What two requests does Pi make to his mother and how does Pi defend his requests?

Chapter 29

21. What does Mr. Patel announce that particularly upsets Pi and Ravi?

Chapter 30

22. What does the interviewer find out about Pi in this chapter?

Chapter 31

23. Which two characters meet in this chapter?

Chapter 32

24. What is the story of Methuselah the mouse?

Chapter 35

25. When did they leave for Canada?

26. What is the name of the Japanese cargo ship they traveled in?

Chapter 36

27. What other surprising things does the interviewer find out about Pi in this chapter?

PART II

Chapter 37

28. What is the very first thing we learn in this chapter?

29. Who does Pi save and why does he immediately regret this?

Chapter 38

30. Describe Pi's account of what happened the night the ship sank.

Chapter 39

31. Who crashes onto the lifeboat with Pi?

Chapter 41

32. Who does Pi fear is on the lifeboat with him?

33. What animals does he find on the lifeboat with him in this chapter? Which one is wounded?

Chapter 42

34. Who floats up on an island of bananas?

Chapter 43

35. Does Pi think he will be on the lifeboat long? Why?

Chapter 45

36. What does the hyena do that horrifies Pi?

37. What human quality does Orange Juice display in this chapter that Pi finds so amusing?

Chapter 46

38. What horrific scene ensues between the zebra and the hyena?

39. Who tries to defend the zebra?

40. What uninvited visitors does the zebra's blood attract?

41. What does Pi lose hope about at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 47

42. What surprising thing does Pi discover in the morning?

43. How does Orange Juice die?

Chapter 48

44. How does Richard Parker get his name and what was his name supposed to be?

Chapter 49

45. According to Pi, which is worse: hunger, suffocation, or thirst? Why?

46. Why does Richard Parker's presence explain the hyena's behavior?

47. How does Pi account for Richard Parker's passivity up to this point?

Chapter 50

48. What color dominates on the life boat (hint: Pi describes it as "a nice Hindu color")?

Chapter 51

49. What does Pi find in the locker and how does it change his mood?

Chapter 52

50. What is the last thing mentioned on the list of things on the lifeboat?

Chapter 53

51. What does Pi build to help ensure his survival? And how does he build this thing?

52. What happens to the hyena?

Chapter 54

53. What are the six plans that Pi comes up with to get rid of Richard Parker? Which one becomes the plan he decides on and why?

Chapter 55

54. Why will his plan for Richard Parker fail?

Chapter 56

55. What does Pi say is "life's only true opponent"?

Chapter 57

56. What is a *prusten* and why does the prusten calm Pi down?

57. What is Pi's new plan?

Chapter 59

58. What is Pi able to notice moving slowly through the ocean that cargo ships miss because they move too fast?

Chapter 61

59. What is the first thing Pi tries as bait while fishing?

60. On page 180, Pi mistakenly thinks Richard Parker has hit him—what actually hits him?

61. Describe Pi's emotions the first time he has to kill a fish.

Chapter 62

62. What pleasant and unexpected thing does Pi discover about the solar stills?

63. At the end of the chapter, how long has Pi been at sea?

Chapter 63

64. How long does Pi tell us that he survived at sea altogether? What are the dates?

65. On page 190, what does Pi say is "one key to his survival"?

Chapter 64

66. What eventually happens to Pi's clothes?

67. What does the salt water do to his skin?

Chapter 68

68. Compare Pi and Richard Parker's ability to sleep at sea.

Chapter 70

69. Describe Pi's first experience killing a turtle.

Chapter 72

70. What does Pi use as a shield while training Richard Parker?

Chapter 75

71. Whose birthday does Pi recognize in this short chapter?

Chapter 76

72. How does Pi establish his dominance with Richard Parker in this chapter? How does he know it is working?

Chapter 77

73. What becomes Pi's favorite dish at sea?

Chapter 78

74. What does Pi say are the "worst pair of opposites" (pg. 217)?

Chapter 79

75. Describe the "epic battle" between Richard Parker and the mako shark that Pi brought on board.

Chapter 80

76. Pi says that if you hold a cat's stare it will NOT do something—what will it not do?

Chapter 82

77. What becomes more precious to Pi than “gold, sapphires, rubies, and diamonds”?
78. At the end of the chapter, what does Pi notice about how his eating habits have changed?

Chapter 83

79. What does Pi lose in this chapter?
80. What fortunately is not damaged?
81. What is the thing Pi finds at the end of the chapter that is “all that remained between [Pi] and death”?

Chapter 86

82. What happens with the ship that Pi spots in this chapter?

Chapter 87

83. What does Pi do as a means of escape in this chapter?

Chapter 88

84. What means of communication does Pi attempt at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 89

85. Why does Pi touch Richard Parker for the first time in this chapter?
86. What does Pi run out of so that he can no longer keep a journal?

Chapter 90

87. What affliction has come over both Richard Parker and Pi?
88. The voice comes aboard the lifeboat—what does he do to Pi?
89. What does Richard Parker do to the voice?

Chapter 91

90. What returned in two days?
91. Why could Pi never find out the true identity of the visitor?
92. What two despicable acts does Pi confess to at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 92

93. Why does Richard Parker kill more than he eats?
94. What “trick” does Pi teach Richard Parker to do in order to maintain his mastery over him?
95. Where does Richard Parker sleep throughout their stay on the island?

Chapter 94

96. Where do Pi and Richard Parker finally land?

PART III

Chapter 96

97. What do the Japanese officials give Pi that he is very happy about?

Chapter 98

98. What does Mr. Chiba complain that Pi has in his bed sheets?

Chapter 99

99. The officials ask for a story without animals and Pi gives them one. The following questions relate to that story:

- a. How many people survive the disaster? Who are they?
- b. What animal does each person represent?
- c. What does the cook convince Pi and his mother to do? What is his real intention in doing this?
- d. How is Pi sucked into the cook's negative influence?
- e. What terrible thing does the cook do that repulses Pi's mother? Pi and his mother do not do this thing, but what do they do that is related to this act?
- f. Why does the cook hit Pi? What is his mother's reaction?
- g. What does the cook throw at Pi?
- h. What happens to the cook?

Chapter 100

100. What surprising detail does Mr. Okamoto include in the last line of his report?