Literary Analysis

o **Secrets from the English Majors & Bloomington Hipsters:**
  - o **Socio-Economic Status (SES)|** It's all about the money.
  - o **Power Hierarchies |** Who's got the power?
  - o **Race/Ethnicity |** Race matters.
  - o **Language |** It's how you say it and in what language.
  - o **Gender |** Patriarchy. Feminism.
  - o **Perspective |** Who is the speaker? Hidden agendas?
  - o **Location |** Where is this coming from?
  - o **Body Language/ Insinuations |** What you're saying without saying it.

o **Literary Analysis | Paragraph Response | ACES**
  - o **A: Answer**   Claim | Thesis Statement | Topic Sentence
  - o **C: Cite**   Textual Support | MLA In-text Citation
  - o **E: Expand**   Explanation of Quote Significance
  - o **S: Sum Up**   Tie Back to Thesis Statement

o **Typical Body Paragraph of an Academic Paper**
  - o **A: Answer**   Claim | Topic Sentence
  - o **E: Expand**   Elaboration | Further Explanation
  - o **C: Cite**   Textual Support | In-text Citation
  - o **E: Expand**   Explanation of Quote Significance
  - o **C: Cite**   Textual Support | In-text Citation
  - o **E: Expand**   Explanation of Quote Significance
  - o **S: Sum Up**   Tie Back to Thesis Statement
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o **Sample Thesis Statement & Textual Support**
  - o **Lens: Power Hierarchies**
  - o **Text:** *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
  - o **Sample Thesis:** As Yann Martel discusses the significance of animal subordination between a circus leader and a lion in *Life of Pi*, he is also foreshadowing the symbolic relationship between Pi and Richard Parker, encouraging critical analysis of the dynamics of power and fear intertwined in existence.
  - o **Sample Thesis:** While Yann Martel discusses the significance of animal subordination between a circus leader and a lion in *Life of Pi*, he questions the necessity of this division of power through the incorporation of the symbolic relationship between Pi and Richard Parker.
  - o **Textual Support:** "As an aside, that is why a circus trainer must always enter the lion ring first, and in full sight of the lions. In doing so, he establishes that the ring is his territory, not theirs, a notion that he reinforces by shouting, by stomping about, by snapping his whip" (Martel 54).

- o **Textual Support:** "They must submit to his dominance rituals" (Martel 54).
- o **Textual Support:** "I had to tame him. It was at that moment that I realized this necessity. It was not a question of him or me, but of him and me. We were literally and figuratively, in the same boat" (Martel 206-207).
- o **Textual Support:** "Richard Parker started growling that very instant, as if he had been waiting for me to become a worthy opponent. My chest became tight with fear" (Martel 186).

o Putting It All Together

While Yann Martel discusses the significance of animal subordination between a circus leader and a lion in *Life of Pi*, he questions the necessity of this division of power through the incorporation of the symbolic relationship between Pi and Richard Parker. In the text, Pi becomes a symbol of human perseverance. Equally, Richard Parker becomes a symbol of animal perseverance. The bridge that destroys that natural division and accompanying subordination rituals between the two is perseverance. Pi explains,

> As an aside, that is why a circus trainer must always enter the lion ring first, and in full sight of the lions. In doing so, he establishes that the ring is his territory, not theirs, a notion that he reinforces by shouting, by stomping about, by snapping his whip. (Martel 54)

In this part, Yann Martel explains through Pi's narration that the subordination to one in power is both recurrent in natural settings and in recreated settings. However, in the unnatural case of Pi and Richard Parker, Martel challenges those instinctual divisions of power. Pi says, "I had to tame him. It was at that moment that I realized this necessity. It was not a question of him or me, but of him and me. We were literally and figuratively, in the same boat" (Martel 206-207). Though defying the natural division of power, Pi and Richard Parker have to put aside subordination and face survival as equals in order to overcome their own demise. In essence, perseverance and the fear of death in as well as being "in the same boat" is the impetus that inspires collective effort.