

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Life of Pi

Study Guide

Things to Look Over:

- Yann Martel Biography
- Excerpts from an Interview with Yann Martel
- Life of Pi Background PPT
- Life of Pi Character List
- Life of Pi Allegory v. Symbolism PPT
- Life of Pi Discussion Questions
- Literary Analysis Handout
- Reading Checks

Test Components:

- Character Matching (MC)
- Author Background (MC)
- Basic Plot Questions (MC)
- Short Answer
- Essay Response

Questions from Reading Checks:

1. When asked to decide which religion he will follow, Pi gives a response that quiets all “three wise men.” What is his response?
2. What two things does Pi ask his father and mother for (or to do)?
3. What technique does the mother use when Pi asks her for these requests to be fulfilled?
4. What are the father’s feelings toward Mrs. Gandhi?
5. What is this time frame in India known as or called (when Mrs. Gandhi suspended the Constitution)?
6. When Pi invites Mr. Kumar to the zoo, he realizes there might be a chance that he won’t recognize him. What is Pi’s strategy?
7. Who joins Pi and Mr. Kumar (the baker) at the zoo?
8. Pi speaks of zoomorphism. Give one example that was provided in the text.
9. In the italicized section, when Martel is speaking with Pi, what do we learn about Pi’s personal life?
10. How long does it take for Pi’s family to get everything ready for the move?
11. What country are they moving to?
12. What does Pi’s mother want to get before the move?
13. What happens after Pi hears the metallic burp on the ship?
14. Who is Richard Parker?
15. Why does Pi throw an oar at Richard Parker after helping him to the boat?
16. Aside from Richard Parker being in the boat, what other immediate threat lurks in the waters below Pi?
17. Why does Pi survive? What does he do that night that ends up saving his life?
18. Why did the men throw Pi into the lifeboat?
19. What other animals are on the boat by the end of chapter 46?
20. When Orange Juice arrives, what is she floating on?
21. Which animal stressed Pi out by running laps around the inside of the boat?
22. What makes Pi laugh?
23. Which animal is the first to go... at least partially?
24. What animal is killed first by the hyena?
25. What is the disturbing thing, according to Pi about the first death on the lifeboat?
26. Which animal is the second to go (also killed by the hyena)?
27. As Pi crawls across the tarpaulin to take on the hyena, what does Pi realize is also on the boat?
28. What does Pi find on the boat (when he pulls back part of the tarp) that ends up saving his life?
29. According to Pi and the story about the tiger and her cub, which force drives one more- hunger or thirst?

30. What was ravishing the town and killing the people?
31. How did Richard Parker (the tiger) get his name?
32. What color does Pi mentions fills the boat (not blood red, but what "Hindu" color?)
33. What does Richard Parker do that frightens Pi in regards to the hyena?
34. What does Pi create after newfound vigor for life?
35. What plan did Pi abandon after thinking it through?
36. What does Richard Parker do that Pi knows is a good sign?
37. According to Pi, what is life's only true opponent?
38. What is plan no. 7?
39. Right before the flying fish attacks, what does Pi believe Richard Parker has done to him? (Pi was actually hit by a fish, but what does he think happened initially?)
40. When Pi picks up the flying fish and throws it at Richard Parker, what happens?
41. Due to his prior "peaceful vegetarian" existence, what task makes Pi feel "as guilty as Cain?"
42. What ended up being a lifesaver? Pi refers to these as his "cows."
43. How many days did Pi survive on the lifeboat and raft?
44. What instrument does Pi use to train Richard Parker?
45. What happened to Pi's clothes? What was the subsequent result or consequence? Hint: What happened to his skin?
46. What did Pi eat aside from fish? (What other sea creature?)
47. What does Pi use to protect himself from Richard Parker?
48. How many times does Richard Parker attack and destroy it?
49. Why does Pi climb into the lifeboat?
50. How does Pi lose the raft?
51. What has an eye the size of Pi's head and is looking for a mate?
52. When the oil tanker comes, what happens?
53. How does Pi react? How does Richard Parker react?
54. Why are Richard Parker's feces so important to Pi when training Richard Parker?
55. What does Pi do with Richard Parker's feces?
56. What is floating through the water and giving off a pungent smell?
57. What sign of hope of land does Pi receive?
58. What is strange about Richard Parker at this point in the text (dealing with the senses)?
59. What does Pi send out after he comes across all of the trash?
60. What is the last thing that Pi writes in his diary?
61. Where did Pi hit shore?
62. What happened to Richard Parker?
63. Why was Pi crying when the rescuers came?
64. Who interviews Pi and why?
65. What does Pi ask for from the interviewers and then store in his bed?
66. Do the bananas actually float in the sink?
67. Who was the orangutan in the second story?
68. Who is Richard Parker in the second story?
69. Who is both the hyena and the blind Frenchman in the second story?
70. Who is the zebra in the second story?
71. Why is it ironic that the men, interviewing Pi, keep complaining about their hunger? (Think about what implicit criticism Martel is offering by incorporating this.)
72. Which story do you personally believe? The one with humans or the one with animals? Why?