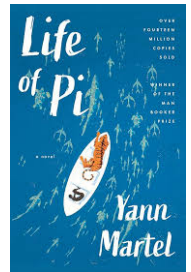


Honors English 10 Summer Reading Assignment
Due: Friday, September 5th by 11:59 pm
Submit via Google Classroom-Class Code: [gbcuhre7](#)
E-mail: chasena@winslow-schools.com

Welcome to Honors English 10! I'm excited to kick off the year with a group of thoughtful, curious, and motivated students who are ready to grow as readers, writers, and thinkers. To prepare for the upcoming year, we will dive right into a text that is both **challenging** and **thought-provoking**: Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. This novel explores themes such as faith, survival, truth, and the power of storytelling. There will be other assessments based on this novel during the first weeks of school (test/in-class essay) so you will want to make sure that you take notes to study while you read. **This assignment is in addition to the required summer reading assignment.**

Read the following novel and take notes as you are reading. Use sticky notes or keep notes in a notebook.

- *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
- The book can be purchased on Amazon for \$10 or you can access it via [pdf online](#).



There are TWO assignments for this novel!
Create your Google Docs file and make sure it's in MLA Format ([Click here](#)).

Assignment One: Dialectical Journal

- ❖ As you read, create a chart like the example below by choosing different literary devices from the list and explaining why you think the author uses this strategy.
- ❖ You will need a total of **10 entries in your dialectical journal** - 4 entries from Part One and 6 entries from Part Two (no entries needed for Part Three). Each entry should be a **minimum of 50 words and should not exceed 100 words!**
- ❖ Literary Devices: [Click here](#)
- ❖ Please choose a different literary device for every box in a section (meaning you can repeat a literary device used in Part One in Part Two)

Literary Device	Properly Cited Quote	Purpose of the literary device/Explanation
Characterization	"I just want to love God," I blurted out, and looked down, red in the face" (Martel 92).	This statement and emotional reaction from Pi is a perfect illustration of many aspects of his character: his sensitivity, his devout religious convictions, and his pluralistic attitude towards multiple religions.

Assignment Two: Written Short Response

For this assignment, you will **choose 3 out of the 6 prompts** below. For each one, write a well-developed **paragraph (150–200 words)** that answers the question in a thoughtful way.

Each response must:

- ❖ **Answer the full prompt**
- ❖ Include **at least two pieces of evidence** (quotes from *Life of Pi*)
- ❖ **Explain** how your evidence connects to the big ideas in the question (this is your analysis)

Don't just summarize what happened!! Show me what it means, why it matters, or what it reveals about Pi, the themes, or the story as a whole. Take your time, and make sure each response is clear, organized, and focused.

Prompt 1. Martel devotes a surprising amount of time at the beginning of the novel to zoos and animal behavior. Why do you think this matters? How does the motif of **zoos** and the broader idea of **boundaries**, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, shape the story as a whole?

Prompt 2. Some readers see Pi's time at sea as similar to the lives of **religious ascetics** (like monks or the Desert Fathers), who live in solitude, often in extreme conditions, to deepen their spiritual understanding. Do some quick research on asceticism, and explain how Pi's experience mirrors or challenges this path.

Prompt 3. What does Richard Parker represent? How is he more than just a tiger? Consider how Pi views him, as both a threat and a companion, and explore what Richard Parker might symbolize about survival, fear, and human nature.

Prompt 4. Pi's time on the algae island is one of the most surreal and unsettling moments in the book. What do you think the **island symbolizes**? How might it connect to the novel's ideas about religion, comfort, illusion, or even the dangers of losing one's purpose?

Prompt 5. *Life of Pi* can be seen as a kind of **quest story**, like those of Odysseus or other heroes. In what ways does Pi go on both an **external** journey (physical survival) and an **internal** one (personal or spiritual growth)? How does he change over the course of the novel?

Prompt 6. At the end of the novel, Pi tells two very different stories. One is filled with wonder and symbolism; the other is brutal and realistic. Which story do you think is **true**? Does it matter which one actually happened? What do you think Martel is trying to say about the **nature of truth** and storytelling?

Please Note the Following Important Information:

1. This assignment is expected to reflect **your own original thinking**. Using **AI tools or copying from another student** is **plagiarism** and a **violation of academic integrity**.
2. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in a **zero for the assignment** with no opportunity to make it up.
3. Remember: your work is **your intellectual property**, and it should show your honest effort and voice.