**Life of Pi – Reading and Reflection Booklet**

**This booklet will be graded according to the rubric – please review achievement level criteria -**

VOCABULARY

**crux** – a central point

**fiasco** – a disaster

**illogical** – defying reason

**obscurely** – vaguely

**purveyors** – suppliers or sellers of something

1. Who is the first speaker in the book? What kind of person does he seem to be? How can you tell?
2. Do you believe everything the narrator says in the “Author’s Note”? How reliable do you think he is? Why?
3. Who first tells the author about Mr. Patel’s story? How many storytellers does this make in the book so far?
4. What is most significant about the story that the author hears?

**PART ONE: Toronto and Pondicherry**

**CHAPTER 1**

VOCABULARY

**acuity** – sharpness

**agnostics** – people who do not believe it is possible to know whether God exists

**blanched** – turned pale

**cosmogony** – a model of the origin or creation of the universe

**elicited** – drew out or evoked

**indolence** – laziness

**intriguing** – arousing curiosity; fascinating

**Kabbalist** – a person who studies a form of mystical Judaism

**repose** – rest

**trifling** – insignificant

1. What we can determine about Mr. Patel from his tone?
2. What were Mr. Patel’s two majors in college? What connection does he make between the two?
3. Near the end of this chapter, the story makes an abrupt change. We started the chapter with the narrator talking about his love of animals and his personal beliefs about God. At the end of the chapter, however, he begins talking about doctors, nurses, and his medical health. What do you think the author is trying to convey here?
4. What can we infer about the narrator so far?

**CHAPTER 2**

NO VOCABULARY

1. Chapter 2 is very short. Why do you think the author included this chapter? What is

hinted at in this chapter?

**CHAPTER 3**

VOCABULARY

**Artesian well** – a well drilled through rock which uses natural pressure to force water up

**credible** – believable

**tomfoolery** – foolish behavior

1. What significant trait did the narrator and Mamaji share?
2. What distinction does Mr. Patel make between the ocean and the swimming pool?
3. In this chapter, we finally learn the full name of our narrator is Piscine Molitor Patel. How did he get this name and why is it significant?

**CHAPTER 5**

VOCABULARY

**imperceptible** – unable to be noticed

**lackeys** – low-level servants

**modulations** – changes in the sound of something

**parched** – extremely dry

1. What might be significant about the name Pi?
2. What qualities does Pi show in choosing to change his own name? What kind of person is Pi Patel?

**CHAPTER 6**

VOCABULARY

**apothecary’s** – shopkeeper’s

**zesty** – spicy, flavorful

1. Once again, the point of view shifts from first person to third person. Who do you think is speaking in this chapter?
2. Whom is the narrator in this chapter describing?
3. What detail does the author note in this chapter?

**CHAPTER 7**

VOCABULARY

**akin** – like

**atheist** – a person who does not believe in God

**avowed** – sworn

**bane** – poison

**carrion** – decaying flesh

**Communist** – someone who subscribes to the political philosophy that all materials

should be equally shared by members of society

**contrite** – repentant; regretful of one’s actions

**daubed** – smeared

**deluded** – tricked

**implored** – begged

**jowls** – the lower part of the cheeks

**organic** – produced without the aid of chemicals; natural

**proffered** – gave

**venerable** – sacred

1. Analyze the description of Mr. Kumar in this chapter. What language and imagery does Pi use to describe him?
2. Why does Mr. Kumar love the zoo?
3. Explain what animals represent to Mr. Kumar and how his views on animals differ from Pi’s.
4. Why does Mr. Kumar call the zoo his “temple”?
5. Describe the relationship between Pi and Mr. Kumar.
6. Why does Mr. Kumar not believe in God?
7. How are atheists like believers, according to Pi?
8. What problem does Pi have with agnostics?

**CHAPTER 8**

VOCABULARY

**depraved** – obscene

**patriarch** – the male head of a family

**placid** – calm

**sari** – a garment typically worn by Indian women which is wrapped around the body

and then draped from a shoulder

**searing** – burning

**tremulous** – timid

**vigilance** – constant caution and watchfulness, especially as protection against danger

1. According to Pi, why do zoologists “commonly say…that the most dangerous animal in a zoo is man”?
2. What animal does Pi’s father believe is “even more dangerous than us”?
3. Pi says, “The obsession with putting ourselves at the centre of everything is the bane not only of theologists but also of zoologists.” What might he mean by this?
4. Pi’s father thinks that it is important that Pi and his brother, Ravi, know how dangerous animals can be. What does Mr. Patel do to show his sons how dangerous tigers are? What theme of the book does this episode emphasize?

**CHAPTER 9**

VOCABULARY

**diminish** – lessen

**perceived** – believed

1. What is a “flight distance”?
2. How can a zookeeper minimize an animal’s flight distance?

**CHAPTER 10**

VOCABULARY

**detractors** – those who are against something; opponents

**disrepute** – low esteem

**essence** – the basic quality

**subjective** – personal

1. The author of this book, Yann Martel, spends a lot of time explaining both the human and animal experience of a zoo. Why do you think that Martel goes into such detail explaining how zoos work?
2. What, according to Pi, does “an animal hate above all else”?

**CHAPTER 12**

NO VOCABULARY

1. What does the narrator mean when he says that whomever he visits “bobs” on the “ocean of memory”?
2. This chapter contains the first mention of someone named Richard Parker, who “still preys on [Pi’s] mind.” Who do you think Richard Parker might be?

**CHAPTER 13**

VOCABULARY

**anarchy** – a social state in which there are no leaders; chaos

**ascendancy** – the act of rising

**larder** – a place where food is kept

1. Even though, as Pi has explained, lions are dangerous, circus lion tamers are able to control them relatively easily. How can they do this?
2. What, according to Pi, accounts for most “hostile and aggressive behaviour” among animals?

**CHAPTER 14**

VOCABULARY

**amenable** – agreeable

**cantankerous** – grumpy; ill-tempered

**compliant** – going along without arguing

**omega** – the end

**strenuous** – difficult, tiring

**CHAPTER 15**

VOCABULARY

**Ganesha** – a Hindu god who is the lord of overcoming obstacles and of beginnings;

he is portrayed as having the head of an elephant

**Kaaba** – the structure around which the holiest pilgrimage of Islam takes place

**Krishna** – a very important Hindu deity, manifestation of the supreme god, heroic warrior, and guide

**Lakshmi** – Krishna’s mother

**Murti** – in Hinduism, an image of the divine spirit

**Simpatico** – likable

**Virgin Mary of Guadalupe** – a vision of the Virgin Mary (Mother of the Jesus Christ) that appeared to an indigenous Mexican man; most popular religious figure of Mexico

1. What is strange about the house that the narrator describes at the beginning of this chapter?
2. What is the tone of his language as he describes the religious objects—does he sound pleased or disapproving?

**CHAPTER 16**

VOCABULARY

**Bhajan** – a Hindu devotional song

**Brahman** – In Hinduism, the fundamental power of the universe

**finite** – having an end or limit

**fundamentalists** – people who strictly adhere to principles or rules

**Nadaswaram** – wind instrument used in Indian classical music

**Quebecoise** – a woman from Quebec, Canada

**reverent** – showing respect or honor

**Samskara** – in Hinduism, a sense impression that forms a bridge to consciousness

**sanctified** – made holy

**Sultriness** – humidity and heat

**weft** – a filling of thread, as used in weaving

1. Pi begins his discussion of religion with an examination of Hinduism, the first religion he practiced. Using Pi’s explanation as a basis, describe, in your own words, the concept of Brahman nirguna.
2. As opposed to Brahman nirguna, what is Brahman saguna?
3. Pi tells us that “we are all born like Catholics,” by which he means we have no religious bent, but are in a kind of Limbo. What does Pi say made him a Hindu?

**CHAPTER 17**

VOCABULARY

**cassock** – a garment worn by Roman Catholic and Anglican priests

**charismatic** – charming or appealing

**defiler** – someone who desecrates a holy site

**deportment** – behavior

**indignation** – offence; anger at being improperly treated

**innumerable** – having such numbers as to be uncountable

**intuitive** – able to perceive information without rational thought

**lament** – a cry of grief

**lethargy** – sluggishness, laziness

**obscure** – not clearly seen

**petulant** – rude

**rectory** – the place where a priest lives

**resignation** – surrender

**sanctum** – a sacred place

**serene** – calm, without care

**splurged** – indulged extravagantly

**tantamount** – equal, amounting to the same thing

**unremittingly** – constantly; without rest

**usurpers** – those who overtake things by force

**vestibule** – a space between an inside and outside door; a lobby

1. Although Pi goes to a Christian school, he knows very little about Christianity. What are his first thoughts about the religion?
2. It is a natural thing for people to compare new concepts to what they already know. Pi’s first religious experiences were in the Hindu temple. Now, he has been exposed to Christianity, and this new religion is difficult for him to understand. What is it about Christianity that confuses Pi so much?
3. In Father Martin’s opinion, what does it take to be a Christian?
4. Compare and contrast the first time Pi goes into the Catholic Church in Munnar with the last time he goes there.
5. If Pi loves the fact that Hinduism is so broad and that it takes into account the existence of God in all living things, what does he like most about Christianity?
6. What is ironic about Pi’s reaction to becoming a Christian?

**CHAPTER 18**

VOCABULARY

**callisthenic** – athletic; relating to exercise

**entailed** – involved

**hovel** – a small, dirty dwelling

**incongruous** – inconsistent

**mosque** – a public building in which Muslims worship

**unfurled** – unrolled

1. Compare and contrast the ways Pi comes to know Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam.
2. What does the Muslim man do that makes the greatest impression on Pi?

**CHAPTER 19**

VOCABULARY

**Imam** – the prayer leader of a mosque

1. Why does Piscine like praying in the mosque?

**CHAPTER 23**

VOCABULARY

**apoplectic** – extremely angry; enraged

**bemused** – puzzled, bewildered

**esplanade** – a level, paved path

**existential** – concerning the purpose for one’s existence

**incredulous** – unable to believe something; amazed

**orthodox** – conforming to teaching or tradition

**pandit** – a wise and well-educated man

**pastoral** – relating to a minister or a pastor

**revelation** – the act of making something known

**secular** – not relating to the church

1. Why is Pi scared when he realizes that all of the religious leaders have come to see him?
2. Briefly outline each religious man’s argument for his own religion and against the other two.
3. Although each religious man fights for Pi, what does Pi want for himself?
4. What does ice cream seem to symbolize in this chapter?

**CHAPTER 25**

VOCABULARY

**resolve** – a sense of purpose; determination

1. How does Pi’s life change after word gets out that he has been practicing several different religions?
2. What does Pi do to combat the changes in his life?

**CHAPTER 26**

VOCABULARY

**zeal** – passion

1. What argument does Pi use when his parents say he must choose one religion and stick to it?
2. Describe Pi’s argument with his mother in this chapter.

**CHAPTER 27**

VOCABULARY

**cusp** – point of change; verge

1. Does Mr. Patel support or oppose technology?
2. Why is Pi’s father confused by Pi’s religious devotion?
3. Why is Pi’s father more willing to accept Christianity than Islam? Why is this ironic?

**CHAPTER 28**

VOCABULARY

**extremity** – far end

**mottled** – spotted

1. Why does Pi prefer praying outdoors?
2. What evidence do we have that Pi’s family supports his religious endeavors?
3. What can we tell about Pi’s personality, based on his religious convictions?

**CHAPTER 29**

VOCABULARY

**furrows** – lines, wrinkles

**precarious** – easily upset; in constant danger

1. What causes the Patel family to finally leave India?
2. Why does Pi make a point of telling us the animals’ reactions to Mrs. Ghandi’s actions?

**CHAPTER 30**

VOCABULARY

**conjugal** – relating to marriage

**icons** – religious images and figures

**nemesis** – someone who exacts revenge; enemy

1. What is the surprise that Pi has for the writer at his home?
2. Why would Pi keep this surprise secret?

**CHAPTER 31**

VOCABULARY

**herbivores** – animals that eat only plants

1. What is humorous about the way Pi greets Mr. Kumar, the baker?
2. As Pi is entertaining Mr. Kumar, the Muslim baker, Mr. Kumar, his teacher, walks up. Both Mr. Kumars end up feeding the zebras, animals that have intrigued both of them. What does this meeting symbolize, and why is it important to this novel?
3. What words does each Mr. Kumar say upon seeing the zebra? Why does the author juxtapose these two statements?

**CHAPTER 32**

VOCABULARY

**assimilated** – absorbed into a system

1. What is “zoomorphism”?
2. What is the greater meaning in Pi’s story about the mouse and the viper?
3. Why does zoomorphism occur?

**CHAPTER 33**

VOCABULARY

**prominently** – in a manner which stands out or is obvious

1. Pi shows the writer a picture of Richard Parker. What can we infer about Richard Parker, based upon this picture?
2. What do we find out about Pi’s mother in this chapter?

**CHAPTER 34**

VOCABULARY

**profusely** – in abundance

**sullenly** – gloomily

1. How do Pi and Ravi feel about moving to Canada?

**CHAPTER 35**

NO VOCABULARY

1. How old is Pi when he and his family move to Canada?
2. Why does Pi’s mother really worry about the brand names of items in Canada?

**CHAPTER 36**

VOCABULARY

**unperturbed** – not bothered

1. Upon meeting Pi’s son and daughter, the writer says that “this story has a happy ending.” Why does the writer need to say this?

**PART TWO: The Pacific Ocean**

**CHAPTER 37**

VOCABULARY

**tarpaulin** – a heavy cover

**vigorous** – strong, healthy

1. What has happened to Pi at the beginning of this chapter?
2. At first, Pi wants to save Richard Parker. Then he pushes him away. Why does Pi do this?
3. Why would Pi want to save Richard Parker in the first place?

**CHAPTER 38**

VOCABULARY

**beckon** – summon, call

**davits** – small cranes that are attached to boats and are used to lift cargo

**dyspeptic** – having an upset stomach

**ensconced** – settled in

**listing** – leaning heavily

**melancholy** – depressing

**pandemonium** – extreme disorder and noise

1. How does this chapter begin? What does this tell us about Pi?
2. What is the problem with the *Tsimtsum* that causes it to sink?
3. What does Pi mean when he says, “the ship vanished into a pinprick hole on my map”?

**CHAPTER 40**

VOCABULARY

**fluctuating** – going up and down at irregular intervals

**grommets** – reinforced eyelets or holes

**prow** – the front part of a ship

1. Pi finally hoists himself into the lifeboat. Even though he shares the small lifeboat with a zebra and a Bengal tiger, he really does not give the animals a second thought. He says he “just held onto the oar.” Why does Pi not consider the fact that he will have to share the lifeboat with two large and potentially dangerous animals?

**CHAPTER 41**

VOCABULARY

**astride** – with one leg on each side of

**flotsam** – floating debris

**gunnel** – the top edge or rim of a boat

**listless** – having no energy

**marauding** – attacking

**semblance** – likeness

**subordinate** – under

**transfixed** – held motionless

1. What is the literary term that is used in the following quote from Chapter 41?

“Fear and reason fought over the answer. Fear said Yes.”

1. Why does Pi think Richard Parker does not try to kill the zebra?
2. Looking back to when the ship first started sinking, why did the sailors throw Pi overboard into the lifeboat?
3. Why is it fortunate for Pi that the hyena is in the lifeboat?

**CHAPTER 42**

VOCABULARY

**colossal** – huge, gigantic

**dispersed** – scattered

**dissembling** – pretending

**malevolent** – mean

**manna** – something good that appears unexpectedly

**matriarch** – the female head of a family

**oblivion** – the state of being entirely forgotten

**reaping** – harvesting

**tentative** – cautious, not certain

1. To whom does the following quote refer?

“She came floating on an island of bananas in a halo of light, as lovely as the Virgin Mary. The rising sun was behind her. Her flaming hair looked stunning.”

2. When Pi sees the “island of bananas,” he does not think to grab them to use as food later. He does, however, retrieve an item from the “island” that later proves to be a

godsend. What is this item?

**CHAPTER 44**

VOCABULARY

**abstract** – existing in the mind; theoretical

**zenith** – the highest point

1. What is the worst time of day on the lifeboat? Why?

**CHAPTER 45**

VOCABULARY

**albeit** – although

**amicably** – happily; in a friendly manner

**bask** – to indulge

**callous** – cruel, unfeeling

**disheveled** – messy

**empathy** – feeling of identification with another

**incongruous** – out of place

**remonstrations** – objections

**resolutely** – determinedly

1. What is Pi’s mental condition in this chapter?
2. At the beginning of this chapter, Pi notes that the night has passed, and he is cold. Still, he says that noticing that he is cold is “a distracted observation.” Why would something as simple as recognizing if he is hot or cold be of no importance to Pi?
3. What surprising and upsetting fact does Pi learn about himself when he notices that the hyena has bitten off the zebra’s leg?
4. Pi is worried about Orange Juice’s safety in light of the fact that there is also a hyena on board. If a hyena is such a fierce predator, why does it not attack Orange Juice?

**CHAPTER 46**

VOCABULARY

**abomination** – horror

**amok** – wild, mad

**capsize** – turn over; sink

**placid** – calm

**plummeted** – fell rapidly

**pungent** – aromatic

**viscera** – the internal organs of the body

1. Earlier, the hyena bit off the zebra’s leg. The zebra’s leg was broken anyway, and although the injury was probably painful, the zebra continued to live. In this chapter, the hyena launches a full-scale attack on the zebra. What is Orange Juice’s reaction to the hyena’s attack, and why do you think she has that reaction?
2. What does Pi conclude by the sunset of the second day?

**CHAPTER 47**

VOCABULARY

**coherence** – organization

**delirium** – insanity

**empirical** – able to be proven scientifically

**kinetic** – full of energy

1. How does Pi discover Richard Parker? What is Pi on his way to do when he first sees the tiger?
2. The hyena has already killed the zebra. Now it has also killed Orange Juice. If the hyena wanted food, why would it kill the orangutan when it had not eaten all of the zebra?
3. Pi’s story is told in first-person. He was the one who experienced what happened, and he is telling us the story directly and in his own words. So far, the recounting of what happened in Pi’s life is very intense and even scary. How would it affect this novel if it was told in third-person? How would the story be different if someone who was not involved in the action of the book told us what happened?
4. Of the animals in the lifeboat, two have names (Richard Parker and Orange Juice) and two do not (the hyena and the zebra). Why are these two sets of animals treated so differently?

**CHAPTER 48**

VOCABULARY

**befuddled** – confused

**imperative** – necessary

**marauder** – a raider

1. How did Richard Parker get his name?
2. What is significant about the story of Richard Parker’s name?

**CHAPTER 49**

VOCABULARY

**asphyxiation** – suffocation

**compelling** – forcing

**consent** – agreement

**conundrum** – a difficult or complex situation

**deliberation** – a discussion or consideration taken on by a group

**insouciant** – not showing respect or fear; cocky

**putrid** – rotten

**reprieve** – a period of delay from punishment

**sustenance** – food

1. When Pi realizes that Richard Parker is aboard, he completely loses his hope of survival. Even so, finding that Richard Parker is there makes him more relaxed and happy. Why is that?

2. Pi says, “the divining rod in my mind dipped sharply and a spring gushed water when

I remembered that I was on a genuine, regulation lifeboat…” Why would the author choose to explain one of Pi’s revelations in this manner?

1. The zebra is easy prey, having no place to go. Even so, Richard Parker, in three days of hunger and thirst, makes no effort to kill it. In fact, the tiger is so quiet that Pi does not even realize he is there. Why does Richard Parker sit by quietly while the hyena kills the zebra?

**CHAPTER 50**

VOCABULARY

**propulsion** – a pushing forward

1. Martel constructs this plot so that the animals that end up with Pi are very specific.

There are an orangutan, a zebra, and the two predators, the tiger and the hyena. Why did Martel choose these particular animals for the story and how would this novel be different if he chose four other animals?

1. Pi is telling us the story years after it happened. When he was shipwrecked, he was just sixteen years old. As he tells us the story, he is considerably older, married, and the father of two children. Why, then, would he accurately remember so many details about the lifeboat, especially the exact dimensions of the boat? Could he be changing the story at all, whether accidentally or deliberately?

**CHAPTER 51**

VOCABULARY

**cache** – a hiding place

**deluge** – an overflowing; a flood

**hasp** – a fastener

**suppleness** – softness

**supplication** – prayer

**unambiguous** – definite, easily known

1. Pi has stressed before the importance of noticing the details of one’s environment. How does this help him when he goes looking for water?

**CHAPTER 52**

VOCABULARY

**ampoule** – a small vial

1. Why does Pi make a point of listing every item he has in the boat?
2. It is only after he has taken stock of the survival rations that Pi falls asleep. Remember, he has not slept at all in three days. Why would he pick that moment to fall asleep?

**CHAPTER 53**

VOCABULARY

**bated** – held back

**crevasses** – deep cracks

**emerged** – come out

**futile** – hopeless

**implored** – begged

**lithesome** – possessing grace and flexibility

**oppressive** – overwhelming

**poignancy** – emotional impact

**ponderous** – heavy, weighty

**robustly** – strongly

**thrall** – state of being absorbed

**wavered** – went back and forth

1. Pi has the choice of staying in the lifeboat with Richard Parker or jumping overboard and attempting to swim to safety. Why does he choose to stay in the lifeboat?
2. Just as Pi is at the depth of his sorrow about his impending death, something changes in him. What happens to turn Pi’s outlook around?
3. What event saves Pi from an attack by Richard Parker? Is this event likely, given Pi’s situation, or is it hard to believe? What characteristic of Pi does this event reveal?
4. What does Pi say he discovered when he started to give up on life?

**CHAPTER 54**

VOCABULARY

**attrition** – wearing away; wearing down

**erratic** – unpredictable

**treachery** – treason

1. How does Pi plan to rid himself of Richard Parker?

**CHAPTER 55**

VOCABULARY

**inert** – unmoving

**mantra** – a word or phrase that has mystical powers when repeated by a person

**panorama** – a complete and unobstructed view

1. Pi starts to doubt his plan to outlast Richard Parker. What seems to be the biggest hole in the plan?

**CHAPTER 56**

VOCABULARY

**adversary** – opponent

1. What does Pi consider “life’s only opponent” and why is it such a problem?
2. Why does Pi say it is important to express fear?

**CHAPTER 57**

VOCABULARY

**brackish** – salty

**edification** – improvement of understanding or knowledge

**resonant** – echoing

1. What is prusten and when does it occur?
2. What is the benefit for Pi if Richard Parker continues to live?

3. What does Pi now plan to do to keep Richard Parker alive and yet keep himself safe?

How will he accomplish this feat?

**CHAPTER 58**

VOCABULARY

**cryptic** – difficult to understand; mysterious

**daunted** – intimidated

**exertion** – effort

1. Why is it important that Pi forgets about being rescued?

**CHAPTER 59**

VOCABULARY

**disconsolate** – deeply sorrowful; unable to be comforted

**dregs** – the last bits of something

**evanescent** – vanishing like a vapor

**luminescence** – the emission of light; glowing

**mien** – appearance

**splayed** – spread apart

**tremulously** – as if experiencing tremors; shaking

1. What is so important about the fact that the raft can be used to anchor the lifeboat?
2. What does Pi consider “good news wearing a foul dress” and what does it mean to Pi?
3. What language does Pi use to describe the sunset over the Pacific that he watches in this chapter? Why does he use this device?

**CHAPTER 60**

VOCABULARY

**sage** – a wise man

**throe** – spasm

1. What does viewing the ocean at night teach Pi about his predicament?

**CHAPTER 61**

VOCABULARY

**cowed** – intimidated

**exasperation** – extreme irritation

**onslaught** – a fierce attack

**rebuked** – scolded

**sanguinary** – bloodthirsty

**sentient** – having the ability to feel

1. Pi has plenty of food at his disposal, so why would he consider fishing in the first place?
2. Thanks to the school of flying fish that land in the lifeboat, Pi now has bait to fish for others. The only thing he has to do is kill one of the flying fish. How does he feel about this?
3. What is Pi’s explanation for the fact that he wept over the having to kill the flying fish, yet killed the dorado he caught without a second thought?

**CHAPTER 62**

VOCABULARY

**assessed** – took stock of; analyzed

**loath** – very reluctant

**marred** – damaged

**procure** – get

**rivulets** – small streams

**stifling** – suffocating

1. What is it about his current setup with Richard Parker that reminds Pi of a zoo?

**CHAPTER 63**

VOCABULARY

**imprinted** – pressed

1. How long was Pi shipwrecked?
2. What are two things that Pi says helped him survive.

**CHAPTER 66**

VOCABULARY

**agile** – able to move easily; graceful

**ambit** – pattern of movement

**carapace** – a bony shell that covers an animal

**lateral** – relating to the side of something

**muster** – rouse

**ventral** – on the lower surface

1. The first time Pi fishes, he takes only one small flying fish, which he wraps in a blanket to avoid touching directly. Later, Pi no longer feels the need to use a blanket to wrap around a fish. He has absolutely no problem with touching fish with his own two hands. What can account for this change in him?

**CHAPTER 68**

VOCABULARY

**roused** – stirred

1. Review what Pi says in Chapter 4 about how easily animals adapt to zoos. Then, compare that with how well Pi and Richard Parker are adapting to their new environment.

**CHAPTER 70**

VOCABULARY

**forbearance** – patience

**goad** – provoke

**impose** – establish as the authority

**reluctantly** – unwillingly

1. What does killing his first turtle teach Pi?

**CHAPTER 71**

VOCABULARY

**afflicting** – troubling

**affronted** – insulted

**construe** – interpret correctly

**malaise** – illness; weakness

**misconstrue** – interpret as offensive

**piqued** – bothered

**vexed** – agitated

1. What does Pi do to step up his efforts to control Richard Parker?

**CHAPTER 72**

VOCABULARY

**covert** – secret

**cuffed** – struck

1. Compare and contrast Pi’s method of controlling Richard Parker with the actions of an average circus lion tamer.

**CHAPTER 73**

VOCABULARY

**disconsolate** – sad, dejected

1. Other than being saved, what is Pi’s greatest wish? Why is this?

**CHAPTER 74**

VOCABULARY

**consecrated** – made sacred

**desolation** – complete ruin

1. What does Pi mean when he says that “God’s hat was always unraveling, God’s pants were falling apart. God’s cat was a constant danger. God’s ark was a jail…”

**CHAPTERS 75 AND 76**

VOCABULARY

**arduous** – difficult

**deference** – respects

**ominous** – threatening

1. What is Pi’s motivation to clean up after Richard Parker after the tiger defecates?

**CHAPTER 78**

VOCABULARY

**abates** – lets up

**apathy** – lack of feeling

**conversely** – oppositely

**expendable** – easily used and replaced

**jubilation** – celebration

**perpetually** – continually

**provisions** – food stores

1. Why are there “many skies” and “many seas”?
2. Explain the mathematical allusions Pi makes in describing role of a castaway. Why are they particularly appropriate for Pi?
3. How has Pi’s outlook about the ocean changed since he was first shipwrecked?

**CHAPTER 80**

VOCABULARY

**defiant** – not submissive

**gregarious** – outgoing, talkative

**horde** – huge number

1. Why does Pi say that he is “more set on eating than on staying alive” when he catches the dorado?
2. What is significant about the fact that Richard Parker does not fight Pi for the dorado?

**CHAPTER 82**

VOCABULARY

**torrential** – violently gushing

1. When we first meet Pi, he is an intellectual, bookish boy. How is Pi different now? What were the top three most significant things that have happened to him that have affected him the most?

**CHAPTER 83**

VOCABULARY

**hillocks** – small hills

**hovering** – hanging

**monotonous** – dull

**pummeled** – violently beat

1. According to Pi, what happens to us when we face continual terror?
2. Why is an orange whistle the only thing that “remain(s) between (Pi) and death”?

**CHAPTER 84**

VOCABULARY

**alighted** – landed

**archipelago** – a group of islands

**behemoths** – giants

**glint** – a flash of light

**supernatural** – unable to be explained rationally; mystic

**CHAPTER 85**

VOCABULARY

**celestial** – above the Earth; heavenly

1. Why does Pi praise Allah when he sees the lightning?

**CHAPTER 86**

VOCABULARY

**bulwarks** – the section of a ship’s side rising above the upper deck

**juggernaut** – something that crushes everything else in its path

**languishing** – becoming depressed or weak

**sentinel** – a watchman

1. Pi shouts, blows a whistle, and even sets off a flare, yet the oil tanker takes no notice of him. Why does no on the oil tanker see Pi?

2. At the end of this chapter, Pi tells Richard Parker that he loves him. Why does Pi love

Richard Parker?

**CHAPTER 88**

NO VOCABULARY

1. Pi finds floating waste indicating the presence of humans. How does this sight make him feel? What kind of language does he use to describe it?

**CHAPTER 89**

VOCABULARY

**emaciated** – starved

**prostrate** – lying flat

**subjugation** – defeat

1. What is important about the fact that Pi starts to imitate Richard Parker in his daily routine?

**CHAPTER 90**

VOCABULARY

**abundant** – plentiful

**amoral** – being outside the concepts of right and wrong

**disconsolately** – hopelessly; miserably

**Infernal** – hellish

1. What finally marks the rock bottom of Pi’s suffering?
2. Although Pi is still alone, he carries on a conversation with someone. With whom is Pi speaking?
3. The mystery speaker has killed two people. What were the circumstances that led to this? Does the speaker have any regrets about it?
4. The mystery speaker turns out to be another shipwreck victim, of French origin. What happens to him?
5. How does Pi feel when Richard Parker kills the man?

**CHAPTER 91**

NO VOCABULARY

1. Richard Parker has disposed of most of the human flesh from the other shipwrecked man. What does Pi do with the rest of the flesh?

**CHAPTER 92**

VOCABULARY

**chimera** – an illusion

**conjecture** – a guess

**consternation** – concern

**copiously** – abundantly

**diurnal** – active in the daytime

**euphoria** – extreme happiness

**gait** – style of walking

**laden** – burdened

**multitude** – a large number

**olfactory** – relating to the sense of smell

**pliable** – flexible

**porosity** – absorbency

**rote** – automatic; done without thought

**symbiotic** – deriving mutual benefit from each other; living off each other

**vagaries** – whims

1. Why is the island such a godsend to Pi?
2. Richard Parker has been feeding on the life forms on the island. In fact, he kills many more animals than he can eat. Why does Richard Parker continue killing animals, even after he is no longer hungry?
3. Compare and contrast Pi and Richard Parker’s relationship on the lifeboat with their relationship on the island.
4. Once Pi begins sleeping on the island, he awakens to find himself covered in meerkats. He misses the meerkats when morning comes and they leave him. Why does Pi become so attached to the meerkats?
5. Pi finds a tree that seems to bear fruit. He painstakingly climbs the tree, but abandons the fruit entirely. What sinister secret does the tree hide?
6. Why do Pi and Richard Parker finally leave the island?
7. What might the symbolic significance of the island be?

**CHAPTERS 93 AND 94**

VOCABULARY

**botch** – ruin

1. What happens the last time Pi ever sees Richard Parker?
2. Why, according to Pi, is it important to “conclude things properly”?
3. Why does Pi say he turned to God after leaving the island?
4. Why does Pi credit Richard Parker with saving his life?
5. Richard Parker has been set free in the jungles of Mexico. He will no longer have to be behind bars in a zoo or trapped in a lifeboat. Why, then, does Pi refer to the jungle as “free confinement”?

**PART THREE: Benito Juarez Infirmary, Tomatlan, Mexico**

**CHAPTERS 95 AND 96**

NO VOCABULARY

1. Why have members of the Japanese Ministry of Transport come to interview Pi?
2. How is the trip made by the Japanese men like the trouble with communication that resonates as a theme of the book?

**CHAPTER 98**

NO VOCABULARY

1. Why does Mr. Okamoto say that Pi “thinks (he and Mr. Chiba) are fools”?

**CHAPTER 99**

VOCABULARY

**imploring** – pleading

**ruminants** – animals that chew cud

**scimitars** – curved swords

1. Still disbelieving Pi’s story, Mr. Okamoto questions why no one else has seen an island of floating algae like the one Pi describes. What is Pi’s answer to Mr. Okamoto?
2. Aside from questions about the island, what else does Mr. Okamoto find unbelievable about Pi’s story?
3. What is Pi’s defense when Mr. Okamoto says that his stories are hard to believe?
4. In the alternative version of Pi’s story, who is the zebra and what is the evidence to support this?
5. Who is the orangutan? What is the evidence to support this?
6. Who is the hyena? What is the evidence to support this?
7. Who is the tiger? What is the evidence to support this?
8. If we go on the assumption that the second story, the one where Pi recounts what happened to the people on the lifeboat, is closer to reality, why does Pi come up with the story about all of the animals?
9. What do the representatives of the Maritime Department want to focus on? What does Pi want to focus on?
10. Why does Mr. Okamoto feel that Pi’s story is doubtful?
11. What does Pi say about reason in this chapter?

**CHAPTER 100**

VOCABULARY

**licit** – lawful

**quadrant** – a quarter of a circle

1. What is the official report on the sinking of the Tsimtsum? Why did it sink?
2. Why is Pi’s story irrelevant to the report about the Tsimtsum?
3. What is interesting about the fact that this book ends at Chapter 100?
4. What does Mr. Okamoto’s final report indicate about his feelings about Pi’s story?