**Chapter 56-57 study questions**

1. Why does Pi think fear is “Life’s only true opponent”?
2. How is fear personified in Chapter 56?
3. How does Richard Parker himself calm Pi down?
4. What is Pi’s epiphany?

**Chapter 58 study questions**

1. Name one possibly life-saving and one humorous survival tip from the survival manual that Pi finds.
2. Explain Pi’s statement that “a castaway’s worst mistake is to hope too much and do to little.”

**Life of Pi**

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**Chapter 59-70 study questions**

1. These chapters deal with Pi’s survival. In Chapter 59, how does Pi make the tarpaulin his?
2. How else does Pi improve his odds of survival?
3. How long does Pi survive as a castaway in the Pacific and why is this a significant number?
4. In Chapter 68, why does Pi say he has difficulty sleeping?
5. Why does Richard Parker not attack Pi during this time?

Life of Pi

Book 2

**Chapter 71-75 study questions**

1. How does Pi set about training Richard Parker?
2. Chapter 75 is one sentence only: “On the day when I estimated it was Mother’s birthday, I sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to her out loud.” What effect does this have on the reader?

**Chapter 76-84 study questions**

1. What are some signs of Pi’s physical and spiritual deterioration?
2. The store in Chapter 83 causes much loss. What remains to keep Pi from certain death?
3. How does Pi regard birds and mammals that are not prey?

**Chapter 85-86 study questions**

1. “I remember that close encounter with electrocution and third-degree burns as one of the few times during my ordeal when I felt genuine happiness” (Chap. 85, p. 233). How can this be?
2. “At moments of wonder, it is easy to avoid small thinking, to entertain thoughts that span the universe, that capture both thunder and tinkle, thick and thin, the near and the far” (Chap. 85, p. 233) Comment on Pi’s use of opposites here. Have you ever felt similarly.

**Chapter 87-91 study questions**

1. These chapters represent extreme anguish for Pi. Describe some of the worst things that befall Pi during this section.
2. In Chapter 90, Pi has a hallucinatory conversation between a carnivorous sailor who tries to strangle him, and himself, a peace-loving vegetarian. What is the purpose of this chapter?

**Chapter 92-93 study questions**

1. We know from the outset that the island is empirically impossible. Why then do we believe it as readers?
2. The island seems to be entirely vegetarian. Why?
3. Like most things too good to be true, the island is, too. How does it show its true colors?
4. What might the island and its true nature symbolize?
5. “Nothing distracted the meerkats from their little lives of pond staring and algae nibbling” (Chap. 92, p. 269). Is Pi talking about meerkats or human nature in this passage?
6. As Pi begins to rejuvenate on the island, so, too, does Richard Parker. Why?

**Chapter 94 study questions**

1. After more than seven months, Pi reaches land. Richard Parker disappears into the forest immediately. Why no goodbyes?
2. Pi says, “It’s important in life to conclude things properly. Only then can you let go” (p. 285). Discuss the truth of these words.