Life of Pi

Book 1

**Chapter 1 – 2 study questions**

1. Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human characteristics to nonhumans. Find examples of anthropomorphism on pp. 4-5.
2. Describe some examples of imagery, figurative language on pp. 6-7

**Chapter 3-5 study questions**

1. Describe how Pi comes to be named after a French swimming pool.
2. Pi does not agree with people who “think animals in the wild are ‘happy’ because they are ‘free’”(Chapter 4, p. 15). Why?

**Chapter 6-7 study questions**

1.. What is the difference between an atheist and an agnostic?

2. Why does Pi dislike agnostics more than atheists?

**Chapter 8 study question**

1. How does Pi’s father teach him that “an animal is an animal?”

**Chapter 9 -14 study questions**

1. Describe territoriality as it relates to Pi’s father’s zoo and to animals in general.
2. Martel’s statement, “Memory is an ocean and he bobs on its surface” (Chap. 12, p. 42) is an allusion. What does it refer to? (note: allusion is a passing or casual reference to a person, event, place, or phrase, either directly or implied.)
3. In Chapter 13, Pi notes: “Much hostile and aggressive behavior among animals is the expression of social insecurity” (p. 43). An animal’s social rank is central to how he leads his life (who he associates with, when he eats, etc.). to feel secure, an animal needs to know his place in the social hierarchy. Does this hold true for humans as well? Explain.

**Chapter 15-29 study questions**

1. Compare Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism.

* History
* Beliefs
* Worship

1. What must the “better story” include, and what does a “dry, yeastless factuality” represent?
2. Chapter 22 has an important insight. What is it?
3. Pi’s allegiance to all three religions is brought into question. How does Pi triumph and make all three spiritual leaders appear petty and intolerant?
4. What finally prompts Pi’s father to leave India?

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**Book 1**

**Chapter 30-36 study question**

1. How do the two Mr. Kumar’s react to the animals at the zoo?
2. What do you take away from Chapter 33’s photographic mementos?
3. What is amazing to Pi about the selling of zoo animals?
4. Anticipate what the last sentence of Part One, “This story has a happy ending” (p. 93) might mean?

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**Book 2**

**Chapter 30-53 study questions**

1. Describe the ecosystem on the lifeboat.
2. These are difficult chapters to read due to the graphic detail of the carnage. What do you find most horrific? What does Pi seem most upset about?
3. Who or what might the zebra represent?
4. Pi says, “You might think I lost all hope at that point. I did. And as a result I perked up and felt much better” (Chap. 49, p. 134). How does this ironic statement make sense?
5. Why is Pi unable to think logically at this point?
6. What might account for Richard Parker’s passivity?