

Honors 10 Summer Reading Assignment 2019

Mrs. Lowe (karen.lowe@washk12.org)

1. Read the novel *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.
Make sure you read The Author's Note at the beginning of the book because that is a part of the story. Notice that this is a frame tale (a story inside a story). There are two narrators: the author (Yann Martel and Pi). Ask yourself, how does this affect the novel?
2. Keep a journal of your thoughts as you read. You need at least 20 entries. The entries can be typed or hand-written. The entries should look like this:

A SHORT QUOTE FROM THE BOOK (page #)	Your response to the quote. Don't tell me what it says. I know what it says. Tell me why you chose it. Why do you think it's important? Why did you include it in your journal?
"This book was born as I was hungry (VII).	This is an interesting way to begin a novel. What does he mean that he was hungry? Literally hungry for food? Or metaphorically hungry for other things like fame, fortune, knowledge? I will look to see if this is a symbol throughout the rest of the novel.
"There are two-toed sloths and there are three-toed sloths . . ." (3).	I have no idea why he's writing about sloths. Why are they important? All I know about sloths is that they are cute and slow. I didn't even know that there are different kinds. There must be a reason why he included this. Maybe I'll know by the end of the novel.

3. Also, when you are done reading the whole novel, please write a paragraph in answer to each of these 3 questions:
 - a. Pi's full name, Piscine Molitor Patel, was inspired by a Parisian swimming pool that "the gods would have delighted to swim in." The shortened form refers to the ratio of a circle's circumference divided by its diameter, the number 3.1415926..., a number that goes on forever without discernable pattern, what in mathematics is called an irrational number. **Explore** the significance of Pi's unusual name.
 - b. By the end of the novel, we have heard two stories about Pi's experiences at sea. Which story do you believe? When the investigators state that they think the story with animals is the better story, Pi answers, "Thank you. And so it goes with God." What do you think Pi meant by that? How does it relate to the claim that this is a story "that will make you believe in God"?
 - c. The first part of the novel starts twenty years after Pi's ordeal at sea and ends with the words "This story has a happy ending." Do you agree? Explain your answer.

These assignments are due the first day of class.