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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Author’s Note – Chapter 14 (page 3-45)

1. Why did the narrator travel to India?
2. Whom does the narrator meet in India, and what does this person tell him?
3. How did Pi improve his life after his journey “left [him] sad and gloomy” (p. 3)?
4. Why does Pi love Canada?
5. What happens the first time Pi eats in an Indian restaurant in Canada?
6. What did Pi’s father do before owning a zoo? How does this compare with running a zoo?
7. How is a zoo enclosure the perfect place to give an animal all of its basic needs?
8. What is the most dangerous animal in the zoo, and how does PI’s father demonstrate this to visitors?
9. How does Pi’s father demonstrate to his sons the dangers of underestimating animals in the zoo?
10. Why must a lion tamer enter the ring first? What else must the lion tamer remember?
11. Why would a lion tamer prefer to work with a lion of low social rank?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 15 – 36 (page 45-93)

1. To which religion does Pi belong first and foremost, and why is it important to him?
2. Why is Munnar important to Pi, and what is symbolic about the “three hills” within Munnar?
3. What does Pi think of the priest’s story about Christianity’s origins?
4. What effect does watching the Muslim baker prayer have on Pi?
5. How do Mr. Kumar the teacher and Mr. Kumar the baker each directly affect Pi’s life?
6. Why do three religious leaders visit Pi, and what do they tell his parents?
7. What two special requests does Pi have for his parents?
8. Why does Pi’s family move?
9. What is zoomorphism?
10. How do Ravi and Pi initially feel about leaving India?
11. When and from where does Pi’s family leave India, and how do they travel?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 37 – 52 (page 97-147)

1. How does Pi rescue Richard Parker? Why does he soon rethink his actions?
2. What does Pi see that makes him realize something is very wrong with the ship?
3. How do “fear and reason” battle in Pi’s mind as he hides from Richard Parker?
4. Who is Orange Juice, and how does she arrive on the lifeboat?
5. What is the last thing Pi sees of the ship?
6. Why is the ecosystem on the lifeboat “battling” to Pi?
7. What message does Pi give the sea turtle?
8. What happens that makes Pi love and admire Orange Juice?
9. How did Richard Parker get his name?
10. When Pi searches the boat, for what specifically does he look?
11. According to Pi’s math, how long will the food and water in the locker last him?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 53 – 65 (page 147-194)

1. What does Pi do about the threat Richard Parker poses?
2. What two things save Pi from Richard Parker’s advance?
3. What are the six plans Pi devises to deal with Richard Parker?
4. What does Pi realize about his sixth plan? What new plan does Pi devise?
5. What does Pi think about fear?
6. After reading the survival guide, what does Pi realize he must do?
7. What is significant about the cockroach?
8. What does Pi discover about the sea below him?
9. Why does Pi cry after he catches the flying fish?
10. What does the lifeboat resemble to Pi, and why?
11. According to Pi, how long does he drift in the Pacific? Who else drifts nearly as long?
12. What nautical skill does Pi attempt to learn, and what is the end result?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 66 – 86 (page 194-236)

1. How does Pi find himself with more food than he can possibly eat?
2. Why did Pi shudder as a boy when he ate bananas?
3. Describe Pi’s sleeping habits versus Richard Parker’s.
4. What distinct smell does Pi remember from this time?
5. How long must Pi continue to train Richard Parker?
6. How are turtles vital to Pi’s plan to train Richard Parker?
7. How is being a castaway like perpetually being in the center of a circle?
8. What is a constant source of anxiety for Pi?
9. In what ways does Pi become an animal?
10. What is significant about the last orange whistle?
11. Why are the birds disappointing to Pi?
12. How does the bolt of lightning affect Pi and Richard Parker?
13. What does Pi promise to Richard Parker after the oil tanker nearly kills them?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 87 – 93 (page 236-284)

1. What is one of Pi’s favorite “methods of escape”?
2. What does Pi write about in the final days of his journal?
3. What makes Pi pity Richard Parker, and what happens to Pi’s own physical state?
4. Why does Pi find the voice he hears “disgusting”?
5. What does the Frenchman try to do to Pi, and why doesn’t he succeed?
6. Why is the island such an “exceptional botanical discovery”?
7. What sources of food do Pi and Richard Parker find on the island?
8. Why does Pi decide to leave the island?
9. Why doesn’t Pi leave Richard Parker on the island?
10. What happens to the algae Pi secures to the boat with rope?

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*Life of Pi* guided questions

Chapters 94 – 100 (page 284-end)

1. What does Richard Parker do when the lifeboat lands in Mexico? How does this make Pi feel?
2. Who visits Pi, and what are their jobs? Why do they want to speak with him?
3. How do the two men react to Pi’s story about traveling with Richard Parker?
4. How does Pi prove his story about Orange Juice’s arrival on the boat?
5. Why are the men doubtful that the Frenchman exists?
6. How does Pi respond to the men’s statement that all stories have an “element of invention”?
7. How are the animals in Pi’s first story represented in the second story?
8. What does Pi tell the two men about the crew of the *Tsimtsum*?
9. After Pi finishes the second story, what does he ask the two men?