

## Book Report: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

### Key Details

- **Title:** *Life of Pi*
- **Author:** Yann Martel
- **Publication Year:** 2001
- **Publisher:** Knopf Canada
- **Pages:** 319
- **Genre:** Fiction / Adventure / Philosophical Novel

### Introduction

- Story of Pi Patel, a young Indian boy with a love for religion and animals
- Begins in Pondicherry, India, where his family owns a zoo
- Becomes a survival tale after a shipwreck leaves Pi stranded on the Pacific Ocean
- Central focus: his relationship with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker

### Summary

- Pi's childhood and fascination with multiple religions
- Family decides to emigrate to Canada with their zoo animals
- Ship sinks, leaving Pi stranded on a lifeboat with limited supplies
- Shares the boat with animals, but eventually only Richard Parker, the tiger, remains
- Pi survives 227 days at sea, battling hunger, storms, and fear

- Rescued in Mexico, where officials doubt his story and he gives an alternate, darker version

## Themes and Analysis

- **Faith and Survival:** Pi turns to religion and storytelling to endure hardship
- **The Power of Storytelling:** Two versions of Pi's survival highlight truth versus belief
- **Man vs. Nature:** Relationship with Richard Parker shows fear, respect, and coexistence
- **Identity and Belief:** Pi's acceptance of multiple religions reflects human curiosity and resilience

## Character Information

- **Piscine "Pi" Patel:** Intelligent, spiritual, resourceful, and determined to survive
- **Richard Parker:** Bengal tiger symbolizing nature's power and the primal will to live
- **Pi's Parents:** Practical, skeptical of Pi's devotion to religion, and supportive yet strict
- **Japanese Officials:** Represent authority and skepticism, questioning Pi's account

## Plot Overview

- Pi's early life in India and love for science and religion
- Family's decision to move to Canada by ship
- Tragic sinking of the ship and Pi's fight for survival at sea
- Constant struggle with Richard Parker, hunger, storms, and isolation
- Final rescue and conflicting accounts of what truly happened

## Personal Response and Evaluation

- Engaging and unique mix of adventure, philosophy, and survival story
- Pi's perspective on religion adds depth and raises big questions about truth
- Richard Parker makes the story gripping and symbolic
- At times, the narrative is slow, but the payoff is powerful
- Strongly recommend to readers who enjoy stories that blend imagination and reflection

## Conclusion

- *Life of Pi* is about faith, storytelling, and human resilience
- The ending forces readers to question what truth really means
- The novel leaves a lasting impression with its mix of adventure, philosophy, and emotional depth