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Life of Pi

# *Life of Pi* as a Bildungsroman Novel

A *Bildungsroman (*Bil·dungs·ro·man), which means “formation novel” in German,is a genre of novel that tells the story of the spiritual, moral, psychological, and/or social growth of a protagonist. This extremely important change from youth to adulthood is the result of an extraordinary experience. This genre is further characterized by a number of specific topical and formal features that show the progression of the protagonist.

*Directions:* Below are characteristics of a Bildungsroman novel. Read each description of a Bildungsroman novel and give one example from the novel *Life of Pi*. Make sure you use key words from the descriptions in your examples.

The protagonist must separate himself from his home, or the “known,” in order to experience emotional or psychological growth.

Example from the story w/7 sentence justification using CEI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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He or she usually loses his or her family literarily or metaphorically. This journey is one he or she must experience alone.

Example from the story w/7 sentence justification using CEI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Throughout the growth process there are several conflicts and obstacles that the protagonist must overcome. Usually the conflict is between the desires of the protagonist and society. However, the most important obstacle the protagonist must face is the internal conflict within himself.

Example from the story w/7 sentence justification using CEI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The protagonist transforms from a boy to a man or a girl to a woman. This transformation is emotional or psychological or both. He or she has an epiphany about life, a moment of insight.

Example from the story w/7 sentence justification using CEI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The ending of a *Bildungsroman* novel is usually ambiguous or lacking “closure.”

Example from the story w/7 sentence justification using CEI: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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