# Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Life of Pi

Chapters 17-23

Activity Guide Questions

*Directions*: Read the chapters and answer the questions below in complete sentences.

COMPREHENSION

1. In Chapter 17 how old is the narrator Pi?
2. In Chapter 17, metaphorically, who is the religious figure that Pi meets?
3. Pi visits Father Martin three times because Pi is baffled by the Jesus’s crucifixion story. Each time what is the Father’s one word response?
4. When Pi speaks of “the [three] wise men” to whom is he referring?

APPLICATION

1. In Chapter 17 Pi explains why he likes Hinduism and Christianity. List one idea that he likes about each of the religions:

Christianity:

Hinduism:

1. After leaving Mr. Kumar’s house, Pi examines his surroundings and realizes that everything is connected. Write the passage word-for-word that reflects Pi’s new spiritual insight:
2. What is it about Christianity that confuses Pi?
3. Why does Pi like praying in the mosque?

ANALYSIS/SYNTHESIS

**Motif**

A **motif** is any recurring element in a story that has symbolic significance

1. Find one passage (1-3 sentences) that reflects each motif below and write the passage word-for-word. Include the page number after your passage.

Circle:

Faith/reason:

Mystical experience:

The Number three:

Fear:

**Theme** isthe central and dominating idea incorporated throughout a literary work.

**Figurative Language and Theme**

1. Which figurative language device is used in this passage: “I felt like a small circle coinciding with the center of a larger one.” (page 62) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List the two unlike comparison*:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Explain the significance of these two unlike comparisons:

**Characterization and Irony and Comic Relief**

**Comic relief** is the use of a comic scene to interrupt tragic moments. The comic relief scene typically parallels the tragic action that the scenes interrupt.

1. One Sunday the “three wise men” accidently meet Pi and his family and it is revealed that Pi has been practicing three religions. Complete the chart below noting the criticisms that each of the “wise men” have towards the other religions and their praises of their own religion.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **THREE WISE MEN** | **Islam** | **Christianity** | **Hinduism** |
| **PRIEST (Christian)** |  |  |  |
| **IMAN (Muslim)** |  |  |  |
| **PANDIT (Hindu)** |  |  |  |

What is ironic about the reactions of Pi’s three religious teachers towards each other when they encounter Pi at the same time?

UNIVERSAL THEME

1. Underline key words and phrases in this passage.

I can well imagine an atheist's last words: 'White, white! L-L-Love! My God!'-and the deathbed leap of faith. Whereas the agnostic, if he stays true to his reasonable self, if he stays beholden to dry, yeastless factuality, might try to explain the warm light bathing him by saying, 'Possibly a f-f-failing oxygenation of the b-b-brain,' and, to the very end, lack imagination and miss the better story. (page 64)

What should the “better story” include? What do the phrases, “dry, yeastless factuality” and “the better story” suggest about Pi’s feelings toward the beliefs of atheists and agnostics?

READER-RESPONSE/PERSONAL CONNECTION

*Directions:* Read the response question below and write one paragraph in the space provided.

* Pi places atheiests and religious people in the same category because they both have faith in their beliefs. He places the agnostic in a separate category because they never take a position about religion. Do you agree with this grouping? Explain

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ACROSS THE CURRICULUM/SUBJECT CONNECTION (Suggestion for further study)

Religion:Compare and contrast the beliefs of atheists and agnostics

History and Literature:Read the works of famous atheists