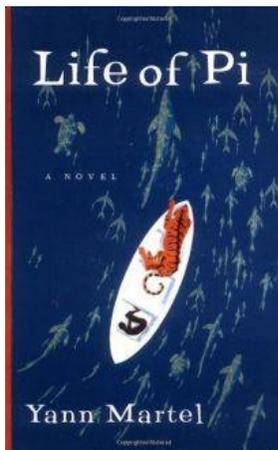


Dear Incoming Sophomore Honors English Student,

Welcome! Please read the following book and come to school ready to discuss it next fall.

The Life of Pi
By Yann Martel



A fabulous romp through an imagination, by turns ecstatic, cunning, despairing and resilient, this novel is an impressive achievement—"a story that will make you believe in God," as one character says. Pi Patel spends a beguiling boyhood in Pondicherry, India, as the son of a zookeeper. Growing up beside the wild beasts, Pi gathers an encyclopedic knowledge of the animal world. His curious mind also makes the leap from his native Hinduism to Christianity and Islam, all three of which he practices with joyous abandon. In his 16th year, Pi sets sail with his family and some of their animals to start a new life in Canada. Halfway to Midway Island, the ship sinks into the Pacific, leaving Pi stranded on a life raft with a hyena, an orangutan, an injured zebra and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Pi is left to survive on the 26-foot-long raft, using all his knowledge, wits and faith to keep himself alive. The scenes flow together effortlessly, and the sharp observations of the young narrator keep the tale brisk and engaging. Martel's potentially unbelievable plot line soon demolishes the reader's defenses, cleverly set up by events of young Pi's life that almost naturally lead to his biggest ordeal. This richly patterned work, Martel's second novel, won Canada's 2001 Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. Martel displays the clever voice and tremendous storytelling skills of an emerging master. -- More of this review can be found on PublishersWeekly.com

Be sure to read Martel's introductory note. His captivating honesty about the origins of his story is almost worth the book itself.

OPTIONAL: If you have difficulty remembering information after you read it, take some informal notes as you read. This will help you feel comfortable in class discussion and help you prepare for written assessments.

Please have this book read by the first day of classes in September. Have a beautiful summer! Please see me (Mrs. Buttino, Room 245) if you have any questions!