*Life of Pi* Essay

*Life of Pi*, according to Yann Martel, can be summarized in three statements: ″Life is a story... You can choose your story... A story with God is the better story.″ A recurring theme throughout the novel seems to be believability. Pi at the end of the book asks the two investigators "If you stumble at mere believability, what are you living for?" According to Gordon Houser there are two main themes of the book: "that all life is interdependent, and that we live and breathe via belief."

PBS has described Martel's story as one of "personal growth through adversity." The main character learns that "tigers are dangerous" at a young age when his father forces him to watch the zoo's Royal Bengal tiger patriarch, Mahisha, devour a live goat. Later, after he has been reduced to eking out a desperate existence on the lifeboat with the company of a fully grown tiger, Pi develops "alpha" qualities as he musters the strength, will and skills he needs to survive.

#### Please choose one of the following Essay topics:

# 1. Martel says, " “I have a story that will make you believe in God.” Religion is of importance to Pi and he often refers to three religions and/or multiple deities at once. Discuss the role of religion in Pi's life and how it helps him survive his ordeal.

2. The two Japanese officials who interview Pi don’t believe that he really landed on a man-eating island. When they say that carnivorous trees and fish-eating algae do not exist, Pi responds, “Only because you’ve never seen them.” What does this exchange say about human understanding of what is real and possible?

3. Pi gives two accounts of his ordeal. Which one would you rather believe and why?

Your essay must have a minimum of the following:

1. A Hook (only one) :
   1. A Rhetorical Question
   2. An Anecdote
   3. A Direct Quote
2. A thesis that responds fully to the prompt and is located at the end of the introductory paragraph. Your thesis should always be in one sentence. **Your thesis must be highlighted.** - Please review Thesis handout, if you have questions.
3. Always write about literature in **present tense**. Example: *Pi* ***goes*** *to Canada*
4. Body paragraphs must begin with a transition and a **topic sentence**. *While Pi loves the anthropomorphized, herbivore Orange Juice,* ***he dreads Richard Parker due to the fear that he will kill to survive****.\**
   1. Body paragraphs include 3 quotes from our text that support your thesis followed by clear analysis not summary. **Analysis answers why the quote is important.**
5. MLA Citations after all quotes - (Martel 55).
6. Paragraphs must be at least 5 complete sentences in length *[not including quotes]*
7. Do not use second person *(you, our, we, us).* Don not use contractions *(can’t, - cannot, you’re – you are etc.).*
8. A thoughtful conclusion that does not start a new essay or ask questions.
9. Essay must be three full pages long. Papers that do not meet this requirement will be reduced by 30pts.
10. Grammar, syntax and diction do count.

“If you stumble about believability, what are you living for? Love is hard to believe, ask any lover. Life is hard to believe, ask any scientist. God is hard to believe, ask any believer. What is your problem with hard to believe?” `

― [Yann Martel](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/811.Yann_Martel), [*Life of Pi*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1392700)

***Draft due on Google docs***

***Final copy due on Turnitin***