

Easy reading: The Life of Pi: Book review (level 3) – exercises

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the text and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–j next to the numbers 1–10.

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1..... to refuse | a. to say that you will not do something |
| 2..... ferocious | b. scary, violent and aggressive |
| 3..... to drown | c. the loss of hope |
| 4..... exhaustion | d. extreme tiredness and lack of energy |
| 5..... to appreciate | e. to move from one country to another |
| 6..... despair | f. feeling ill because of the movement of a boat or ship |
| 7..... survivors | g. to understand that something is valuable or important |
| 8..... to emigrate | h. to die in a river or ocean when water gets into your lungs |
| 9..... loneliness | i. people who are still alive after an accident or extreme difficulties |
| 10..... seasick | j. being alone and missing the company of other people |

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write numbers (1–10) to put these sentences in order.

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|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | A new government is elected in India. |
| | Pi is terrified when he finds himself in a lifeboat with animals and he jumps into the ocean. |
| | Pi finds some food on the lifeboat, but then starts to catch fish. |
| | Pi and the tiger take 227 days to cross the Pacific Ocean in the lifeboat. |
| | Pi grows up in a house in his father's zoo. |
| | Pi remembers there are sharks in the ocean and climbs back into the lifeboat. |
| | On the way to Canada, there is a terrible storm and the ship sinks. |
| | Finally, Pi and the tiger arrive at the coast of Mexico. |
| | Pi's family decide to close the zoo and move to Canada. |
| | Some of the animals in the lifeboat kill and eat each other. |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

1. Yann Martel decided to become a writer **before / while / after** travelling around India.
2. Pi's family and teachers ask him to **be a Hindu / choose a single religion / help out in the zoo**.
3. Richard Parker doesn't immediately attack Pi because **he is seasick / he isn't hungry** .
4. Pi uses **psychology / physical strength** to show Richard Parker that he is in charge.
5. **Alex / Danny / Paula** describes a very moving chapter of the book.
6. **Alex / Danny / Paula** thinks anyone might enjoy this book.
7. **Alex / Danny / Paula** would have preferred it if the book had more action and pace.
8. **Alex / Danny / Paula** thinks the plot is hard to believe.

Discussion

What do you think about this book? Does it sound like a book you'd choose to read?