**Considering Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, select an event of significance in the narrative. Summarize the events, then explain Pi's state of mind using the language of Maslow's Hierarchy.**

In part 2 of the story when Pi discovers Richard Parker living on the lifeboat with him he finds himself in conflict about his approach regarding Richard Parker. He battles whether to try to kill Richard Parker by limiting his access to food and water or find a way to drown or beat him. He thinks that there is no way to survive with a tiger with him. Despite his desire to prioritize safety needs and physiological needs he decides to keep Richard Parker with him. He desires to live harmoniously with Richard Parker and puts extra effort to feed and provide for him. Occasionally giving the tiger his own food and starving himself. In this scenario, his need for safety and desire for companionship clash; self-actualization and companionship win over safety and survival. Since he is able to hold onto his mentality and true desires his experience on the ship is both improved and threatened. Eventually, Pi’s choice to keep Richard Parker saves his life and allows him to continue on and find a reason to keep living. He goes as far as to mention that he couldn't have continued mentally without him, that he gave him hope.

**Considering the Frame Narrative, we discussed a "secret" narrator. Who is it? How do you know? Explain how it works.**

Considering the frame narrative I believe the frame narrator is not something that can be conclusively defined. Some might believe the “secret” narrator is a type of God or the representation of faith, but I believe the hidden narrator of the story is the reader. It is not any physical representation displayed within the book, but a mental one. It is based on the reader's mentality surrounding the characters and their beliefs. The idea of the story and the possible reality of it is based on an idea, as are all stories and words. So, if the reader buys into this idea, the story becomes real and is given shape, for it is nothing but words without a mind stringing them into something. The reader is always unconsciously narrating, that is what makes the story so subjective and gives them the choice to believe and make it real or keep it fictional.

**Which story do you choose to believe? Why?**

I choose to believe the original story, the one with the animals. Primarily I choose to believe this story because it has had a greater impact on my life. I spent hours of my time reading and watching this story progress. This makes me want to believe in it because what would have been the point of reading it when it can be overtaken and presented as false in a few more pages? The original, “better” story is something that makes more sense to me. At the end of the text, doubt from the investigators pushed the idea that the first story is objectively “crazy” so it must be false. But in my eyes, the first story is no more unlikely than the second, in a way it may be easier to survive with a tiger than a human. Humans are unpredictable and relatively unknown to Pi, while he is very familiar with animals and knows their habits. Pi himself says “Isn't telling something—using words, English or Japanese—already something of an investigation.” (p. 302) He realized the fiction of words, so if words will always be fictional I would choose to believe the words which have imprinted on me.

**Select 10 chapters from the text. List the chapter number and a chapter title (that you create), then summarize the chapter in 2-3 sentences.**

**Select a portion of the text for which you don't have a clear opinion. For example, you might select the island chapter, or perhaps the end of the text; select something particularly perplexing. Then, explain why it confuses you, or why you can't make up your mind. Be thorough.**

I found myself at a divergence in the end of the text, when Pi is talking to the investigators, and more specifically when he is questioning the definition of stories. "The world isn't just the way it is. It is how we understand it, no? And in understanding something, we bring something to it, no? Doesn't that make life a story?" (Chap. 99) Many may interpret this moment with a religious undertone, thinking that in the same way those who believe in a story of god, they can believe in any story, and that faith is the way to make words and stories real. But I find an alternate interpretation of this moment, I believe that it is about personal choice and the subjectivity of belief, without the aspect of faith. It is about how individuals decide what a story is, what is fictional and what is not. “Life is a story” because only *you* can write it, can define the characters, define yourself. And I find myself confused about the author's meaning, whether his goal was directed towards the self or the higher power.

**Some say this story is a bildungsroman. Is it? Why/Why not? Provide evidence from the text.**

Life of Pi is not a bildungsroman story. Despite its misleading title, the book is not truly about the protagonist Pi. Even if the story's main focus was Pi the story would not be a bildungsroman one. Throughout the story, Pi does not transition and grow in a “coming of age” type way. He changed to survive, he was often forced to do things he detested, actions that acted against his moral principles. Such as when he was killed for the first time, sobbing with guilt. The story is a tragedy and does not end with Pi growing into himself, it ends with him barely surviving and everyone he loves being dead or gone. “I was weeping because Richard Parker had left me so unceremoniously. What a terrible thing it is to botch a farewell...it's important in life to conclude things properly. Only then can you let go; otherwise, you are left with words you should have said but never did, and your heart is heavy with remorse” When Richard Parker left Pi when they arrived at land, it demonstrates how Pi never gets a conclusion. He never gets his happy or even content ending, left alone with only himself. Through the book, he learned how to survive but he hasn't yet learned to live.