

Dear Rising Seniors,

Congratulations on arriving at your final year of high school! To assure that you are fully prepared for the expectations that await you beyond the Cinema School's sheltering walls, we have a rigorous year ahead of us. This mandatory summer assignment will jump start our work together, by keeping your brain gears oiled and your reading skills well-toned. The assignment will require that you get yourself the following:

1. A copy of *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel (2001)
2. A pad of 3"x3" post-it sticky notes

The novel will be the focus of our first several weeks of class, and thus the expectation is that you will have completed the reading and annotation assignment described below **before** the first day of class. You will be required to have the book in hand for the first weeks of school, so if you check it out of your public library, be sure to renew it or risk late fees! Students who have not completed the assignment prior to the start of the school year will be unprepared to participate in the discussions, assignments and assessments that will take place in September and first marking period grade will reflect this.

Annotation Assignment:

As you read, you will be on the look out for lines or passages that excite you. Create one post-it response for each passage that catches your eye. **You will be required to respond to at least one selection for every chapter of the novel.** Stop and respond as you go, or collect your thoughts at the close of each chapter. Consider quotes that are interesting, raise questions or utilize literary terms with which you are familiar, such as characterization or symbolism (among others). Also notice:

epiphany – seeing something you didn't see before
character insights – motives, symbolic representation, reasons for conflicts/relationships
recognition of patterns – overlapping images, repetitions of idea, details
structural or content shifts
author's style – use of certain words, phrases, sentence structures, tone, etc.
effective use of stylistic/literary devices – interpret imagery, figures of speech, symbols, allusions, etc. and give possible explanations
realization of a deeper meaning or theme that is running throughout the novel

Good luck, happy reading, and in the immortal words of the Beach Boys, See youuuuuu in Septembeeeerrrrr....

Sara Cohen-Agha, 12th Grade English Teacher