

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

GRADE 12

PAPER 2: LIFE OF PI QUESTIONS**THE AUTHOR'S NOTE****QUESTION 1**

Answer the following questions.

- 1.1 What is the purpose of the Author's Note? (3)
- 1.2 Make a comparison between the visiting writer/fictitious author and the real author, Yann Martel. Which details are true and which ones are false? (3)
- 1.3 Give a reason why the author listens to Francis Adirubasamy. State why this is important. (3)
- 1.4 Refer to the Author's Note: 'Once upon a time there was a zoo...'
Explain how this statement introduces the concept of storytelling and the reader's belief in these stories. (3)
- 1.5 Refer to Chapter 1: 'My suffering left me sad and gloomy.' Discuss the effect this opening line has on the reader. (3)
- 1.6 State how one of the major themes is introduced by Pi's reference to the 'three- toed sloth'? (3)
- 1.7 What is suggested by the author's comment about fiction being "the selective transforming of reality? The twisting of it to bring out its essence"? (3)
- 1.8 Why did the author go to India? (3)
- 1.9 Why does the author mail his manuscript for the book about Portugal to a made-up address in Siberia? (3)
- 1.10 Who first tells the author about Mr. Patel's story? How many storytellers does this make in the book so far? (3)
- 1.11 What is most significant about the story that the author hears? (3)

[33]

QUESTION 2

Read the following extract then answer the questions that follow.

Extract A

He took in my line of work with a widening of the eyes and a nodding of the head. It was time to go. I had my hand up, trying to catch my waiter's eye to get the bill. Then the elderly man said, "I have a story that will make you believe in God." I stopped waving my hand. But I was suspicious. Was this a Jehovah's Witness knocking at my door? "Does your story take place two thousand years ago in a remote corner of the Roman Empire?" I asked.

"No."

Was he some sort of Muslim evangelist? "Does it take place in seventh-century Arabia?"

"No, no. It starts right here in Pondicherry just a few years back, and it ends, I am delighted to tell you, in the very country you come from."

"And it will make me believe in God?"

"Yes."

"That's a tall order."

"Not so tall that you can't reach."

My waiter appeared. I hesitated for a moment. I ordered two coffees. We introduced ourselves. His name was Francis Adirubasamy.

"Please tell me your story," I said.

"You must pay proper attention," he replied.

"I will." I brought out pen and notepad.

"Tell me, have you been to the botanical garden?" he asked.

"I went yesterday."

"Did you notice the toy train tracks?"

"Yes, I did."

"A train still runs on Sundays for the amusement of the children. But it used to run twice an hour every day. Did you take note of the names of the stations?"

"One is called Roseville. It's right next to the rose garden."

"That's right. And the other?"

"I don't remember."

"The sign was taken down. The other station was once called Zootown. The toy train had two stops: Roseville and Zootown. Once upon a time there was a zoon in Pondicherry Botanical Garden."

- 2.1 Place this passage in context by describing where the Author/narrator is and why he is there. (3)
- 2.2.1 State the Author/narrator's line of work. (1)
- 2.2.2 What does the widening of Mr Adirubasamy's eyes suggest to the Author/narrator about his listener's opinion of his profession? (2)

- 2.2.3 Is the Author/narrator's interpretation of Mr Adirubasamy's opinion of his profession correct? Give a reason for your answer. (3)
- 2.3 Compare the Author/narrator's religious beliefs to those of Mr Adirubasamy. Support your answer by quoting from the passage. (4)
- 2.4 The Author/narrator refers to Christianity ("two thousand years ago") and Islam ("seventh century/Arabia") as though they are two entirely separate belief systems. How does this contrast to Pi's beliefs depicted in the novel as a whole? (2)
- 2.5 Using what you know about Mr Adirubasamy's role in Pi's life, explain why it is fitting that he be the one to lead the Author/narrator to Pi. (3)
- 2.6 'Once upon a time there was a zoo...'
Explain how this statement introduces the novel's important theme of storytelling and the listener/reader's belief in these stories. (4)
- 2.7 What is the outcome of this encounter between the Author/narrator and Mr Adirubasamy? (2)
- 2.8 Why do you think the Author/narrator has included this encounter in the Author's note? (1)
- [25]**

QUESTION 3

PART ONE: Toronto and Pondicherry

CHAPTER 1

Answer the following questions.

- 3.1 What is suggested by the fact that the Author's note was set in italics, and Chapter 1 is set in normal text? (3)
- 3.2 Who do we assume is the speaker of Chapter 1? What suggests this? (3)
- 3.3 Why did the person speaking in Chapter 1 choose to study the sloth? (3)
- 3.4 What we can infer about Mr. Patel from his tone? (3)
- 3.5 What is significant about the cities Mr. Patel says he would like to visit? (3)
- 3.6 What were Mr. Patel's two majors in college? What connection does he make between the two? How do they foreshadow what is likely to come later in the novel? (3)
- 3.7 What can we infer about the narrator so far? (3)
- [21]**