

**AP4 Literature and Composition with Mrs. Michicich**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**

**Summer Reading Requirements:**

- 1) Please read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster before we meet for our first class. Reading this text before *Life of Pi* could and should help you with your annotation assignment.
- 2) Please read *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel before we meet for our first class. For this assignment please complete 100 annotations (to the best of your ability) following the "Directions" below. Your 100 annotations should be spread out throughout the text from the beginning through the middle to the end. (See Directions and Examples below)
- 3) Both of these texts will be the main elements of our initial unit in the course (encompassing the first two to three weeks of discussion and activities) so it is important that you read both texts and that you annotate *Life of Pi*. Watching the film, *Life of Pi*, should not act as a substitute for reading the novel, but it certainly could be used as an additional tool for deeper understanding of the text.
- 4) Despite having to do this reading, I hope you enjoy your summer and take some time to relax, have fun with family and friends, and mentally and emotionally prepare for your final year of high school (which is both exciting and bittersweet). I look forward to spending the school year with you as we explore the meaning of life through literature!

**Life of Pi Annotation Directions:**

We will improve our critical reading skills throughout the year as we learn new strategies and gain new perspectives. For this initial assignment challenge yourself to pick one or two items listed below from the EXAMPLES to expand your annotation skills by writing one meaningful sentence per annotation instead of just "highlighting entire passages" or writing one word responses, such as: "WOW!, WTF!, SERIOUSLY!, SETTING, SYMBOL, or METAPHOR" in the margin.

In order to move beyond one word margin notes or large chunks of highlighting or underlining with no margin notes, a student's critical reading is "proficient" if it demonstrates the reader's employment of prior knowledge and/or understanding of the author's craft and literary criticisms to make logical inferences; to identify underlying assumptions; to anticipate implications; & to analyze the author's choices. This is what I would like you to practice in *Life of Pi*.

**Proficient Annotations are accomplished by:**

- interacting thoughtfully with the text by making focused comments;
- marking observations clearly, intentionally, and purposefully;
- using appropriate literary terms and multiple strategies that focus on the elements of fiction, emerging themes, critical perspectives, and the effects of the author's choices; and
- demonstrating clarity in textual comprehension through analytical commentary and/or appropriate critical questions.

**Some specific EXAMPLES to guide you towards "proficiency" with your annotations are:**

- point to and analyze the significance of the author's use of literary devices (symbol, theme, setting, etc.)
- question a character's actions and analyze the possible outcomes of those decisions
- make connections to ideas or insights that you learned from "How to Read Literature Like a Professor"
- create and explain a literary connection to another novel, poem, short story, etc.
- note an allusion in the text and describe how that impacts your understanding of the text
- find patterns in language, style, or content and consider why the author employs them
- study the psychology of the characters, narrator, or author through your detailed commentary
- annotate the book, or certain chapters, through specific critical lenses (historical, cultural, political, etc.)
- note shifts in tone, style, or structure and their impact on the reader and/or the story