

ENGLISH 4APH/dual credit

Mrs. Victoria McCormick

victoriamccormick@nisd.net

This course is taught as a college level English class and, as such, includes a challenging workload, especially outside reading. Be prepared to schedule reading into your free time and to receive frequent writing assignments.

Objectives of the course:

- ✓ To study British and world literature and to cover the curriculum specified in TEKS.
- ✓ To prepare for the AP Literature and Composition Test in May.
- ✓ To complete dual credit writing requirements, including the research essay.

Summer Assignment

Part One. Required Reading

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel (ISBN 0-15-603019-5)

This novel was the winner of the 2002 Man Booker Prize for Fiction. The main character, Pi Patel, is a unique young man, the son of a zookeeper. He knows a great deal about animal behavior, loves stories, and practices not only his native Hinduism, but also Christianity and Islam. When Pi is sixteen, his family leaves India, accompanied by a cargo of zoo animals, for a new home in North America. On the way, the ship sinks, and Pi alone survives in a life boat with a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and Richard Parker, a 450-pound Bengal tiger. Pi must use his wits to survive this treacherous situation.

(Source: www.readinggroupguides.com)

In addition to reading the novel, you are required to form and meet with a **book club group** of your classmates to discuss the novel at least **twice** during the summer. The paperback edition of *Life of Pi* has a book club reading guide at the end of the novel. Discuss at least two of these questions at each of your book club meetings and record your responses in a **new Mead Composition Book** (Having this is a supply requirement for the class). These responses should be **in ink, dated** (according to your meeting date), and at least **one page** in length for each question discussed. In addition, please note before your response the members of your group who attended this book club meeting.

You are also expected to bring your copy of the novel to class everyday until the summer unit is complete. Testing on the novel will follow class discussion during the first two weeks of school. Failure to complete the above assignment will be detrimental to your first six weeks grade.

Acquiring the Text:

The CAHS English Department has copies of *The Life of Pi*, but I encourage you to purchase your own copy so that you can notate and mark in it. In addition, having your own copy of any AP recommended/studied text allows you to review it before the AP test and remind yourself of characters, setting, etc. This book can be found relatively cheaply at both regular and used books bookstores as well as online.

