

A white tiger with black stripes is roaring in the foreground of a white boat. In the background, a man in white traditional Indian attire stands on the boat. The scene is set on a vast blue ocean under a cloudy sky. The text "LIFE OF PI" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

LIFE OF PI

WEEK 4: CHAPTERS 72-76

A scene from the movie 'Life of Pi' showing a tiger and a man on a lifeboat. The tiger is in the foreground, roaring with its mouth wide open. The man is standing in the background, looking towards the tiger. The lifeboat is on the water, and the sky is cloudy.

Chapter 72

1. Pi reminds us that, in the wild, a physical conflict between two animals will most likely result in the death of one of them. Even for tigers, violence is the last result because the tiger “knows” that a fight will mean “kill or be killed.”
2. Being the food provider proves to be insufficient. The threat of physical violence proves to be insufficient. But when Pi is able to demonstrate that he has control over whether Richard Parker feels well or seasick, the tiger stops fighting back.

A scene from the movie "Life of Pi" showing a tiger roaring on a lifeboat with a man standing in the background.

Chapter 73

1. The words and ideas contained in a book would mean some form of human contact for Pi. He would also be able to read messages of hope and encouragement.
2. He sees placing a book of scripture, a book of spiritual guidance and sustenance, into the hands of possibly weary and discouraged travelers a wonderfully generous gesture. He says that this is a much better way to spread the truths of a religion than booming sermons from a pulpit.
3. He does not specifically say, but it clearly has to do with the need to communicate, have some form of human interaction, and find encouragement.

A scene from the movie 'Life of Pi' showing a tiger in the foreground and Pi standing on a boat in the background. The tiger is looking towards the camera with its mouth open. Pi is standing in the background, looking towards the camera. The background is a vast, open ocean under a cloudy sky.

Chapter 74

1. Pi is learning the difference between faith and religion, that God can be worshipped and prayed to without the intercession of a priest or kneeling on a prayer rug facing Mecca.
2. Pi describes faith as an act of letting go and trusting, and he has found it very difficult to let go and trust during his ordeal.
3. The primary theme of this chapter has something to do with the triumph of faith over mere religion and over intense suffering. Even while fearing for his life and suffering the privations he has been suffering, Pi maintains his observances of faith. He prays even without the prescribed trappings of his three professed religions. He is also to find humor and strength in the deterioration of his clothes, shouting out that it is God's pants that are deteriorating, God's hat that is falling apart, etc.

A young man in white clothing stands on a boat, looking towards the camera. A white tiger is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the boat's edge. The background shows a vast, open sea under a cloudy sky.

Chapter 75-76

1. In these two chapters, Pi is a loving son singing “Happy Birthday” to his mother, and a base animal using another animal’s feces to maintain his animal dominance. Martel is establishing the theme of Pi’s continual descent from the spiritual to the base.