

Unit 4 – Life of Pi Group Seminars

As part of a group you will present a seminar based on one of the following assigned themes in Life of Pi:

- The Zoo/Animals
- Survival
- Storytelling & the truth
- Identity/Richard Parker
- The Boats as a Microcosm/The Sea
- Religion

Your seminar will be both academic and creative. It should:

- ✓ Increase our understanding and appreciation of the novel
- ✓ Teach us about the topic/theme as it relates to the novel
- ✓ Help us to experience and enjoy the world of the novel
- ✓ Reinforce our understanding and use of the literary essay outline

Your seminar should be about 30 mins. long and must include:

- ❖ A thesis and 3 arguments, explained clearly and supported by proofs from the novel (quotations and paraphrased examples) detailing the importance of your theme to the novel
- ❖ Secondary research from at least 3 different sources (books, magazines, internet, films)
- ❖ A visual component
- ❖ Class participation (discussion, questions, drama, game, visualization)

As well, you are to create a handout for the students to go along with the seminar. This should be one page, typed and double-sided. On one side will be your theses and arguments with space for students to write examples and other notes. On the other side will be your works cited page in MLA format.

The seminars will be evaluated by the teacher and students.

Seminar Rubric

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge & Understanding				
Research Topic	- demonstrates limited understanding of researched topic	- demonstrates some understanding of researched topic	- demonstrates considerable understanding of researched topic	- demonstrates thorough and insightful understanding of researched topic
Thinking & Inquiry				
Analysis & Interpretation	- analyzes and interprets information with limited effectiveness and explanation	- analyzes and interprets information with some effectiveness and explanation	- analyzes and interprets information with considerable effectiveness and explanation	- analyzes and interprets information with a high degree of effectiveness and explanation
Communication				
Language & Style	- communicates orally with a limited sense of audience and purpose	- communicates orally with some sense of audience and purpose	- communicates orally with considerable sense of audience and purpose	- communicates orally with a strong sense of audience and purpose
Application				
Planning	- demonstrates limited preparation	- demonstrates some preparation	- demonstrates considerable preparation	- demonstrates extensive preparation
Presentation Conventions	- uses ineffective visuals to enhance performance; little to no class interaction	- uses some simple visuals to enhance performance; some class interaction	- uses appropriate visuals to enhance performance; considerable class interaction	- uses effective visuals to enhance performance; effective class interaction