Through the course of this unit, except for the culminating Children’s Book Project, you will work as a group. In your literature circle, you will each take on a role and track the information needed each day as we read and keeping it in your group’s manila file folder, kept in your class period’s Turn In basket. Each group will create a final essay answering one of the three essay prompts in a well written, 800 word essay, with supporting evidence from the text.

1. Religion is very important to Pi. Trace religion through Martel’s text and Pi’s life. Is there a way to read this book as a mental and spiritual journey rather than simply a physical one? If so, then what is it he is seeking? What is Martel trying to say about the nature of religion and its use?
2. Argue for each of the animals as a manifestation of Pi’s psyche. What part of his psyche/personality is represented in the zebra? The orangutan? The hyena? And, most importantly, the tiger? Consider what befalls each and by what means. What does this then, allow us to understand about Pi? How does the concept of survival and the concept of doing “anything” to survive connect to this?
3. In many ways, this book is a story about the telling of a story. Pi argues that the very nature of telling a story makes the truth become “story.” There is the concept of “Story Truth” and “Happening Truth”… Story Truth is the truth that comes out through the story, though it may differ from what really happened. “Happening Truth” is what History, Biography and Autobiography strive to be… unvarnished, as it happened truth. Do you buy into Pi’s idea that the very nature of telling history makes the truth become “Story”? Which story do you believe? Why? What does Pi mean “And so it goes with God”?