

Horizon Class of 2013 Summer Reading due August 11

Texts needed for summer reading (available through our Amazon link at www.richland2.org/rnh):

- 1) Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* (ISBN 978-0-15-603020-5)
- 2) Bill Bryon's *A Short History of Nearly Everything* (ISBN 0-7679-0818-X)

Texts needed for English I pre-AP during the year (available through our Amazon link at www.richland2.org/rnh):

- 1) *The Odyssey*, translated by Richard Lattimore (ISBN 0-06-093195-7).
This edition only
- 2) Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Folger Shakespeare Library (ISBN 0-7434-8280-8).
This edition only
- 3) Ishmael Beah's *Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (ISBN 978-0-374-53126-3)

Biology component:

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR AT THE ZOO

For this activity you will create an ethology, or catalogue of animal behaviors, for a species of your choosing. Ideally, you should choose a bird or mammal for this activity and you may complete it at a zoo, aquarium, pet store or at home. Do not select a sleeping animal! Animal behaviorists spend countless hours in the field studying species in their native habitats to study their "normal" behaviors. Find a particular species that interests you, get comfortable, and then be PATIENT! You will need to watch the animal(s) for a minimum of 30 minutes. Write down each behavior it (they) exhibit(s) during this time period. In addition, record how many times it shows this behavior. A sample is shown below:

Animal: HAMSTER

Behavior	Number of Times
Scratching at corner	///
Eating	//
Sniffing at other hamsters	///
Fighting	/
Running in wheel	/
Sleeping	/

Complete this ethology in chart form on your own paper. It's best to make a clean, neat copy to turn in. The copy you make while observing may be hurried and somewhat sloppy. When finished, answer the following questions:

1. Give the location, time of day, and date on which you made your observations.
2. Describe the conditions (temperature, other climate factors, crowds, noise, etc.) under which you made your observations.
3. Why would a scientist want to catalog “normal” behaviors?
4. Why do you imagine patience is an important trait of animal behaviorists?
5. Define anthropomorphism.
6. Why do scientists have to be careful about interpreting the behavior of animals from a human perspective? Give a specific example.
7. Why would more than 30 minutes (or even one observation) be required to truly study a species?
8. Based on the observations you made, what does the animal you studied spend most of its time doing?
9. How do you think time of day would affect your answer in #8? Give a specific example.
10. **ESSAY QUESTION: For this question, you need to make a connection to *Life of Pi*. This should be typed and attached to the rest of this assignment. This essay will be graded both for an English I pre-AP grade and Biology (see essay chart, next page).**

Does captivity affect this animal’s behavior?

Cite at least one outside resource and at least two passages in the book to support your ideas. Your answer should be no fewer than five paragraphs: an introduction with a thesis, three body paragraphs providing details from outside research and *Life of Pi*, and a conclusion paragraph.

Read the Introduction to *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson. Then, read the following quote:

I think the mark of a true scholar is the ability to change one's opinions. True scholars, I believe, are perfectly comfortable acknowledging mistakes or admitting they don't know something. Smaller minds make snap judgments and stick to them no matter what.
- Stephen Hartshorne, travel writer, associate editor of gonomad.com

From Bryson’s remarks in the introduction, do you see him as a true scholar? What about yourself? Have you had a similar experience with science, or some other discipline? Consider these questions in a 300-word (minimum) reflection.

History Component:

Please answer the following questions with 1 - 3 fully developed paragraphs for each.

Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything* – Chapter 29: "The Restless Ape"

- 1) Why do you think that the origin of modern humans remains such a mystery when the origins of other seemingly inconsequential species are well known?
- 2) What does the invention of various tools tell us about the evolution of humans?
- 3) What explanation do you have for why no human bones have been found in the vicinity of Olorogesailie?

Life of Pi

- 1) Is it possible for someone to simultaneously call themselves a Muslim, Christian, and Hindu? Can someone believe in more than one religion at a time? Why or why not?

English Component:

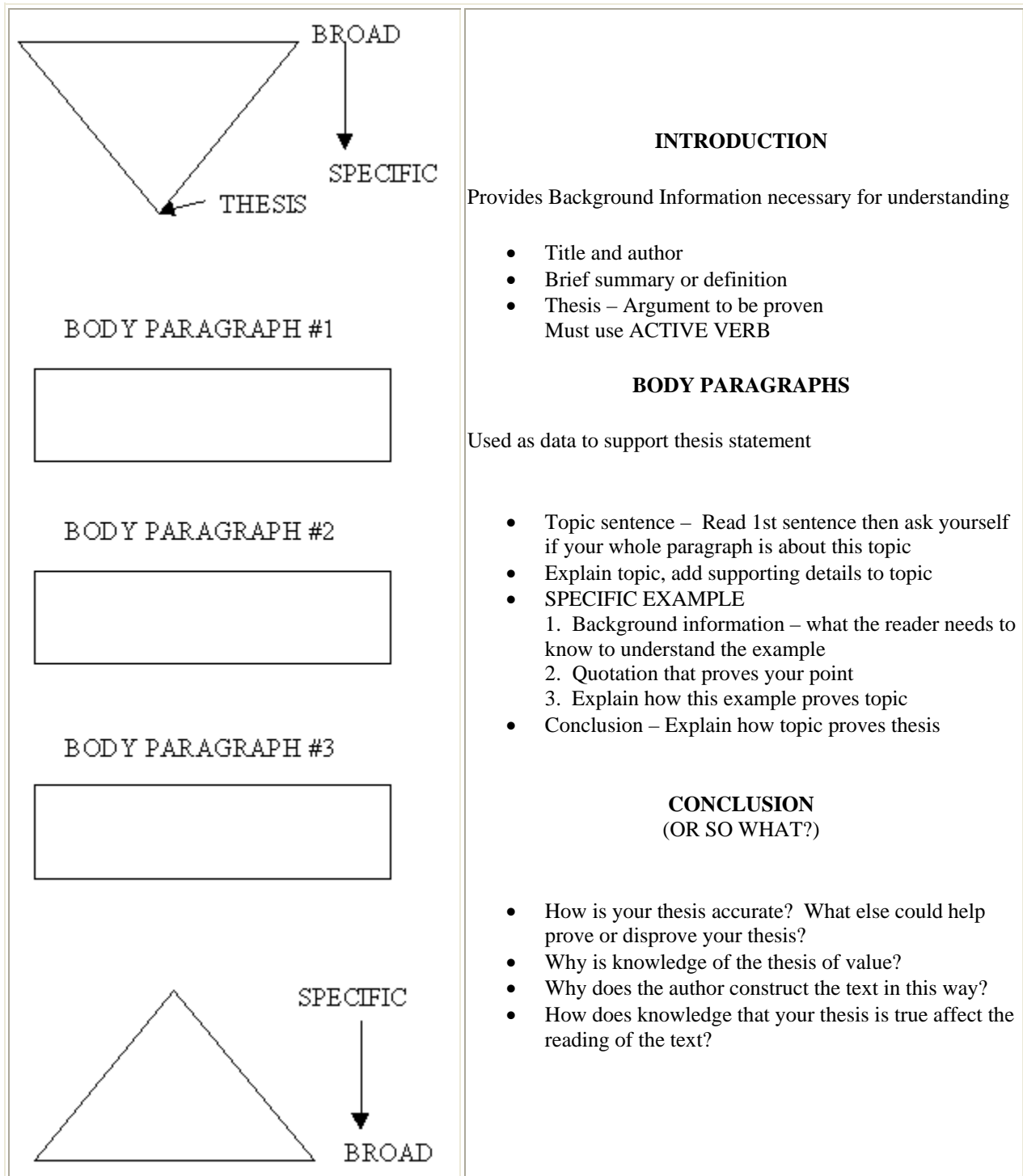
Life of Pi

The book can be divided into three sections: Pi's reminiscing of his boyhood, the shipwreck and following 227 days at sea, and his relation of his adventure tale to the Japanese businessmen. Select one event from the middle section (which comprises most of the book) and re-write that event from Richard Parker's perspective. Length should be 1 - 2 pages typed, MAXIMUM.

Life of Pi Vocabulary Words to know and love ☺

As you read, use a sticky note to mark and define at least 25 vocabulary words throughout the text. Once we come back from the rafting trip, I'll have you all enrolled in a Blackboard class and we can compile a class vocabulary list on a wiki page.

STRUCTURE OF AN ESSAY



NOTE: The five-paragraph essay is a very basic structure for an essay. As you progress in high school and once you attend college, the five-paragraph essay will turn into 8-, 10-, 15- or more paragraph essays. This structure is what remains at the root of the multi-page essay. In a book, an author has a chapter for an introduction instead of a paragraph. (Thanks to <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Delphi/1298/strucessay.html>)