

**Honors English II – World Literature**  
**SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT**

**Required Reading:**

*The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel  
*The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck

All students are expected to read *The Life of Pi* and *The Good Earth*. For these novels, the students will complete the following questions in a ***dialectical journal*** to be turned in on the first day of school. There will be discussion and literary assignments about these books on the first day of school. Students may use their analysis questions for these first-day assignments, so it is important to answer them as ***completely and comprehensively as possible***. You may complete this work on separate sheets of paper. Teachers will check all written work for plagiarism.

***What is a dialectical journal?*** "A **dialectical journal** is a conversation between you and what you are reading. You simply write down passages that make you think or interest you and write about your thoughts. This process is an important way to understand a piece of literature."  
from: [education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html](http://education.llnl.gov/bep/english/10/sdia.html)

**Directions:** Read each and answer each question completely and comprehensively. Your opinion is important! **Use quotes to explain your answers.**

***The Life of Pi***

1. This novel relies upon animals as characters. Are the animals real, or do they symbolize characters in Pi's life? What characters might the animals symbolize? Explain.
2. The story begins and ends with a psychological examination of Pi. Do you think Pi is delusional, or were the events he describes real? What does this mean for the book's plot?
3. Explain how Pi begins his identity transformation (Hint: His name). Why is this important?

***The Good Earth***

1. What is significance of the title of novel *The Good Earth*?
2. Compare the personalities of Wang Lung's two oldest sons. In what ways are they similar and in what ways are they different?
3. The novel begins with Wang Lung's expectation of rain, the daily boiling of water for his father, and his bathing for his wedding. What might this water imagery foreshadow?