



## Life of Pi

Lolita Chakrabarti, adapted from the novel by Yann Martel

*Pi is an Indian boy in his teenage years. Pi is stranded in a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with Richard Parker, a Royal Bengal tiger. So far, Pi has encountered zebras and hyenas, sea turtles and orangutans. At the start of this speech, Pi and Richard Parker have been without water for ten days. They stumble across an enchanting island but it is much more ominous than they first think.*

*(Pi puts a hand out of the boat and feels solid ground)*

**PI:** Land! Firm, solid rooted land! Allah be praised!

*(He stands up)*

I crawl to a glittering lake of cool, fresh water. I drink and drink and suddenly I can see again! It's an island! It's so green and lush. We're in paradise. 'Hello?! Hello? Is anyone there?' A babble of voices answer me.

*(A cacophony of chattering meerkats reply)*

Meerkats, thousands of them. I have company!

*(Richard Parker exits)*

Richard Parker runs inland but i'm so drowsy i'm falling asleep in the boat. I watch all the meerkats climb up to sleep in the trees. I was so happy I could've stayed there forever. A few nights later, I saw something bobbing in the lake, it looked like a dead shark. It dissolved in the water and I thought I must've dreamt it. And then wonder of wonders I found fruit-fragrant, juicy, ripe fruit, at the top of a tall tree. I clambered up, plucked that fruit and took an enormous bit. It was the best thing I'd ever tasted, dripping down my chin, sticky and sweet, but there was something hard inside it when I took it out of my mouth, I saw it was a human tooth. I tore open another fruit, there was a molar in it and then another, it was the same. It was almost dark, the air was thick with scent, I was getting drowsy again but I knew I had to get to the boat. I ran. The ground burned my feet and that's when I understood- that island was carnivorous. It lured me in with fresh water by the day then deadened my sense at night turning to acid, digesting any flesh it could find. That was a shark i'd seen in the water. That's why the meerkats slept in the trees! They were trying to warn me.

*(Frantic squealing of meerkats)*

I had to leave, I ran for the boat but I could hear Richard Parker howling in pain.

*(Richard Parker howls)*

I couldn't leave him. He's saved my life.

*Scene 11 'At Sea' - Scene 12 'The Hospital Room'*