

“You must take life the way it comes at you and make the best of it.”  
How does Pi live this out in his own life?

Deconstruct the Question/Key words-

*‘Take life the way it comes’*

*‘make the best of it’*

*‘How does Pi **live this out**’*

A two part question!!!!!!- In each body paragraph, explore what happens to Pi, and how he responds to it through his actions.

Create an argument to answer the question (A contention)-

Martel demonstrates in his novel that life is not easy and that as humans we will be faced with tough choices or with difficult situations. Through his protagonist, Pi Patel, Martel shows that in order to survive, people must make the best out of a bad situation.

Three body paragraphs will be about-

- Shipwrecked and surviving 227 days at sea- by overcoming the boredom and fear (mental survival) (*recurring motif of orange- the survival colour*)
- Shipwrecked- physical survival (*narrative structure- use of flashback in part 1 to set up the reader to accept flight distance/alpha omega relationship etc.*)
- Choice of religion (*Martel uses the symbol of Bapu Gandhi, a revered figure in India to highlight that “all religions are true”*)
- The choice between faith in God and belief in science. (*Martel juxtaposes the two Santosh Kumars*)

For each body paragraph, list what metalanguage you will use or a way in which Martel constructed his meaning- Do this by putting it in brackets next to the bullet points for the three body paragraphs. (See above- also in *italics*.)

In Yann Martel's vivid work of fiction 'Life of Pi,' the protagonist, an adolescent Indian boy, is shipwrecked in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. He is in the company of what appears to be a "450 pound Royal Bengal tiger," an orang-utan, a zebra and a vicious hyena. Piscine Patel is bombarded with trials of endurance and survival. He is tested to a physical and mental extreme; in which he responds to in a bold and seemingly heroic way. Martel has created a novel that is post modernist as it explores the concept of truth and its validity to explore that life is not easy and that as humans we will be faced with tough choices or with difficult situations. Through his protagonist, Pi Patel, Martel shows that in order to survive, people must make the best out of a bad situation. This is demonstrated through Pi's choosing of a religion in a highly secular country, his dilemma of religion existing within a world of science and ultimately by surviving 227 days on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean.

When given a number of choices, it is important to be open and willing to explore all aspects of those choices. Born into a Hindu family, Pi grew up in India and practiced Hinduism along with the rest of his family. However, aged 14 and on a family holiday he discovers Christianity. Drawn in by the story of Jesus Christ dying for our sins, he becomes Christian. Soon after meeting the illiterate Muslim baker, Santosh Kumar, Pi is attracted to the "ritual" of Islam. Soon Pi is practicing all three religions. Faced with a tough choice, and a tough situation when all three religious men meet his parents at the same time, Pi responds by telling them that he "just wants to love God" . Martel uses Bapu Gandhi, a revered symbol in post colonial India and the quote "all religions are true" to show that when given a tough choice, Pi Patel is willing to embrace an open approach to life and not close himself off to other possibilities. This trait, this openness when faced with dilemmas is also explored through Pi's choice between religion and science.