

**Film guide**

**Life of Pi**

US, Taiwan | 2012 | Cert. PG | 127 mins  
Director: Ang Lee

Pi's life comprises of many journeys: boyhood to manhood, exploring faith and religion, not to mention his family's relocation overseas. But when a devastating storm strikes, Pi finds himself adrift on a lifeboat with only a Bengal tiger for company. If he is to survive, Pi must search deep inside to discover his inner strength. Based on Yann Martel's prize-winning novel, this is an extraordinary, life-affirming tale about survival, spirituality and storytelling.



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**You will like this film if you liked**

Big Fish (2003, PG)



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**Watch next**

All is Lost (2013, 12)



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**Talk about it (before the film)**

What is an allegory? Why might someone use symbols and characters in stories to represent ideas or events? Can you think of any examples of allegorical stories?

**Talk about it (after the film)**

- Which religions does Pi practice? Do you agree that it is possible to belong to more than one religion? How do Pi and his family's views differ on this?
- How would you describe Pi? What qualities does he have that help him survive on the boat?
- What do each of the animals on the boat represent if we choose to read the story as an allegory? Explain what might the carnivorous island represent in this reading.
- The film contains lots of striking visual images and settings, which was your favourite? How could you use these images as inspiration for another story? What other perspectives could you adopt in your story?

**Write about it**

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

**Extension Activities**

Plot Pi's journey in the lifeboat on a map. Once you have sketched the physical route he takes, mark the narrative events in the order they take place and locations you think they have happened in. Add extracts from Pi's log to describe each of these events.