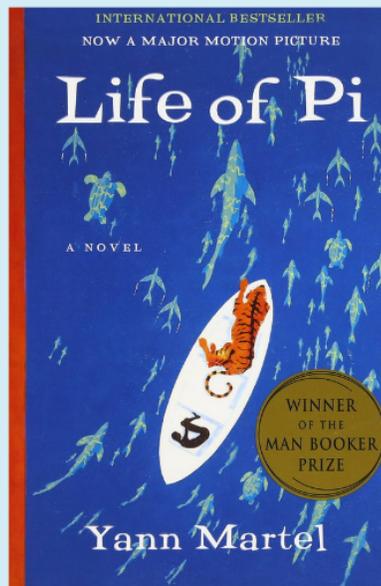


Summer Reading - 2021
St. Bernard's High School

STB SUMMER READING

*Join us as we take on Yann Martel's
2002 Booker Prize winning novel*



Check your email for details!



This year, ALL St. Bernard's students will read one book -- the same book -- and we're encouraging all staff, families, and alumni to read with us, as well!

Our purpose is three-fold:

(1) to reinvigorate a love of reading in our student body by streamlining our summer requirements;

(2) to inspire intellectual curiosity across students, staff, families, and the larger Bernardian community through the process of thoughtful and communal engagement with a text;

(3) to carve out central and meaningful development themes that teachers can reuse throughout the year in their classrooms, regardless of their subject and the grade-level taught.

All of that is basically to say: **we want you to think, listen, and share your ideas, not just in one classroom with one teacher for one month, but *all* year and across classrooms -- and even at the dinner table!**

We hope this approach will kick off a new and fun tradition at STB: **"The Bernardian Book Club!"**

And more than anything, we hope our students take the time to engage meaningfully with this year's selection: it's a thoughtful, poignant story, and we think you'll find many of its recurring themes in line with the spiritual teachings of St. Bernard's High School.

Now, here's a run down on this year's selection ...!

Our 2021 Summer Book is Yann Martel's 2001 Man Booker Prize winning novel, *Life of Pi*.

Martel has said of his philosophical adventure story that it can be summarized in three statements: **"Life is a story;" "You can choose your story;" and "A story with God is the better story."**

The story is that of Pi -- a teenage boy, set adrift after a shipwreck on a raft with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Pi's tale is one of tragedy, struggle, fear, and (ultimately) faith, and it tackles rich philosophical themes like the human quest for meaning amidst tragedy, and our brave attempt to understand the mysteries of God.

A heads up for readers: *Life of Pi* does include some realistic animal scenes that may feel graphic to some; if you need help processing any parts of the story, please reach out. We're here to help!

As the summer progresses, we'll update you on **opportunities to share your insights via an online discussion board through Google Classroom, accessible to students, families, faculty, staff, and alumni.**

We'll also inform you of our plan to host an **all-school discussion panel and a community-wide, back-to-school viewing of Ang Lee's exquisite Oscar-nominated film based on Martel's gripping novel.**

You can find *Life of Pi* (ISBN: 978-1-260-26680-5) in your local bookstore, or order it on Amazon, here:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1786891689?pf_rd_r=5KK13Z1J3HSVQRVKC629&pf_rd_p=5ae2c7f8-e0c6-4f35-9071-dc3240e894a8&pd_rd_r=6049f07b-c6dc-4e77-b002-6dfb77498aa0&pd_rd_w=vxzKC&pd_rd_wg=KLIZN&ref =pd_gw_unk

Happy reading, STB!

Best,

Mrs. Anderson