

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

Since his childhood, Crusoe has had interest in going out to the sea. However, his parents expect him to become a businessman. Initially, Crusoe obeys their advice. However, when one of his friends embarks for London, he decides to come along. Eight years later when embarking on an expedition to West Africa, the ship he travels on is attacked by a hurricane and ends up shipwrecked off the coast of Trinidad.

Being the only one surviving the shipwreck, Crusoe has to seek shelter and food by himself. Surveying the area, he discovers that he is on an island. He spends his days afterward exploring the island, improving his castle, and developing skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

On his fifteenth year on the island, Crusoe sees a ship wrecked on his coast with thirty cannibals heading for shore with their victims. He protects one of the victims and defeats most of the cannibals onshore. The victim, whom he names Friday, is extremely grateful and becomes his devoted servant.

One day a boat of European men comes ashore. Crusoe learns from one of them that he is the captain of a ship whose crew mutiny. Crusoe says he will help them as long as they promise to take Friday and himself to England for free. The

agreement is made and after living on the island for twenty eight years, Crusoe returns to London in June, 1687.

Crusoe later marries and has three children. When his wife dies, he once more goes to the sea. He revisits his island and finds that the Spaniards are governing it well and that it has become a prosperous colony.

SYNOPSIS OF LIFE OF PI

At the beginning of the novel, an anonymous author figure explains that he travels from his home in Canada to India and meets an elderly man who offers him a story which he says will make him believe in God. The story is about a boy named Pi Patel. The author then retells the story using Pi's point of view.

Pi talks about his life as the youngest son of a zoo-owner. Because of the political situation in India at that time, his father decides to relocate the family to Canada. On June 21, 1977, when Pi is sixteen, the family set sail in a cargo ship, along with a crew and many cages full of zoo creatures. However, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a storm attacks the ship, leaving Pi the only human surviving.

Pi shares a lifeboat with a Royal Bengal tiger named Richard Parker, a female orang-utan named Orange Juice, a spotted hyena, and a wounded zebra. The hyena soon feeds on the zebra and kills the orang-utan, but later is eaten by Richard Parker. Avoiding direct confrontation with the tiger, Pi constructs a raft using supplies aboard the boat. Reasoning that healthy animals are less dangerous than the injured or hungry ones, Pi focuses on keeping the tiger alive.

One day, due to poor diet, nutrition, and weakness, Pi goes temporarily blind. During this state he meets another castaway. The man later boards Pi's boat but Richard Parker right away kills and devours him. Soon after, the boat pulls up to an island containing pools of fresh water. However, finding a fruit containing human teeth, Pi realizes that the island is carnivorous, and that he and Richard Parker must leave immediately. They head back out to sea, finally washing ashore on the beach in Mexico after 227 days on the lifeboat. Richard Parker bounds off into the jungle while the villagers take Pi to a hospital.

BIOGRAPHY OF DANIEL DEFOE

Daniel Defoe was probably born in St. Giles Cripplegate, London. Both the date and the place of his birth are uncertain with sources often giving dates of 1659 to 1661.

Although Defoe was a Christian, he decided to enter the world of business as a general merchant. His great ambitions caused him rarely to be free of debt. In 1684, Defoe married a woman named Mary Tuffley, receiving a dowry of £3,700. With his recurring debts, their marriage was most likely a difficult one. They had eight children, six of whom survived.

Defoe's first notable publication was An Essay upon Projects, a series of proposals for social and economic improvement, published in 1697. His famous novel Robinson Crusoe was published in 1719. His other works include Memoirs of a Cavalier (1720), Captain Singleton (1720) and Colonel Jack (1722). Moll Flanders (1722) and Defoe's final novel Roxana: The Fortunate Mistress (1724) are examples of the remarkable way in which he seems to inhabit his fictional characters, not least in that they are women. The latter narrates the moral and spiritual decline of a high society courtesan.

His account of the Great Plague of London in 1665, A Journal of the Plague Year, is often read as if it were non-fiction. It is a complex historical novel published in 1722.

Defoe died on April 26, 1731. He was buried in Bunhill Fields, London, where his grave can still be visited.

(Daniel Defoe)

BIOGRAPHY OF YANN MARTEL

Yann Martel was born on June 25, 1963 in Salamanca, Spain, to Canadian parents. Due to his parents' working for the Canadian Foreign Service, Martel travelled a great deal internationally when he grew up. As an adult, he has travelled the globe, spending time in Iran, Turkey and India.

Martel studied philosophy at Trent University, Ontario, where he began to write. He started writing full time at the age of 27. His collection of short stories, The Facts behind the Helsinki Roccamatios, was published in 1993 and won the Journey Prize in the same year. His debut novel, Self, a story about gender confusion, was published in 1996.

In an effort to collect his thoughts and refresh his creativity, he took a trip to India. In Matheran, a section near Bombay, Martel began revisiting an idea he had not considered in some time. The result was the novel Life of Pi, which became the smash-hit which Martel had been longing for.

In December 2005 Martel was appointed the scholar-in-residence at the University of Saskatchewan, during which he researched for and wrote his next novel, Beatrice and Virgil, which is an allegorical tale about representations of the Holocaust. The novel was first published in April 2010.

Martel currently lives in Alaska with his wife Alice Kuipers, also an author, whom he met at a writer's conference where she was working as a volunteer.

(Segreto, Yann Martel, Yann Martel, Yann Martel Page, Beatrice and Virgil)