Senior English

*Life of Pi* Explication

Earlier this week, you reviewed explication with a few short passages and now it’s time to move forward to and write an explication to submit for a grade. Before selecting your passage, you’ll need to determine your understanding of Martel’s message. What does Martel suggest about science, religion, survival, storytelling or another topic of your choice? Once you think you have found a passage, ask yourself the following:

* Is this passage rich enough to explore and spend a few paragraphs connecting literary device to theme?
* How does Martel’s use of literary device in this passage help him establish a specific theme?

Once you believe that you have found a strong passage to explicate, submit it to me for approval. You may use any passage in Part Two up to our reading for today; however, you may not use a passage that we have already discussed. Your passage should be a few sentences rather than a lengthy paragraph. Once you have an approved passage, begin to mark up the passage to identify the literary devices, syntax, word choice, tone, etc. Pay particular attention to word choice and tone. **Mark everything that you see**.

Begin your explication by copying the passage from the text. Be sure that it is single-spaced and the margins are justified. Be sure to cite the author and page number, too. Then skip two lines and begin your explication. Start your explication by briefly introducing the title and author and giving readers some context for the passage; avoid summarizing the entire story. Include a claim in which you make a statement about why this passage is central to the novel as a whole.

The body of your explication will contain your analysis of the passage. In other words, you will move through the passage sentence by sentence carefully examining, word choice, literary device, tone, syntax, etc. to prove your assertion. This is similar to the practice work that you did in class. Your paragraphs should demonstrate your understanding of the devices and how they function in the passage.

Finally, include a brief conclusion that synthesizes the points that you have made. Show that you understand how the literary devices / aspects work together to create meaning. Be sure to emphasize the central idea that you believe Martel illustrates in the passage.

Your explication MUST include quotes from the passage. You may reference other parts of the story to offer additional support and demonstrate that your interpretation pertains to the whole story, but do not include quotes from other sections of the story. Submit your work to turnitin via Schoology by the end of the period.

**Explication details:**

* One page
* Single-spaced
* Standard font