

Companionship



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Interesting way to start.

Life is a mysterious journey and a companion is needed for a more enjoyable ride. Companions can be anyone: family members, partners, friends, or even strangers. The novel *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel illustrates a tragic survival of an Indian boy named Pi and a Bengal tiger, Richard Parker, after a shipwreck in the Pacific Ocean. After reading the novel, one may wonder how it was possible that the two inexperienced survivors were able to face so many difficulties. “*Two are better than one; for if they fall the one will lift up his fellow*” (Longman 141). Friends are needed in life by anyone: rich or poor, kind-hearted or mean, literate or not. Suffering from the fear of sadness, one needs comfort to overcome. To avoid loneliness, one needs escort to be optimistic. To distract from hopelessness, one needs a partner to care of. In the novel, the protagonist Pi idealizes Richard Parker as his life companion as it prolongs his own reason to live.

this was a great introduction. I hope these three sentences are eluding to your arguments, I assume they are.

When a person is afraid of being sad, one could not be able to control his or her own thoughts and feelings, therefore needs someone to alleviate the fear of sadness. In her book, *On Death and Dying*, Kübler-Ross stated the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance (51 - 123). Many people find it difficult to accept tragic moments such as loss of loved ones, become furious for the loss that has just occurred, try to negotiate to fix the circumstances, depress about the fact that it could not be changed and finally accept the loss and capable to move on. For those who cannot accept the tragic moments and find great difficulties in moving through these stages, having a companion to confide can be a great help.

Should still cite these points here, too.

Pi can refuse to accept the loss of his family on his own and be angry to the crews for throwing him to the lifeboat with the animals all alone. However, to pass to the third stage, bargaining, one needs someone to bargain with. When Richard Parker is struggling swimming in the stormy sea, he is in dilemma whether to save him or not.

Hold on tight, I'll pull in (Martel 130). Pi ends up solving his problem of feeling sad by rescuing Richard Parker and let him be his companion. However, after Pi had saved Richard Parker, he realized that he had rescued a dangerous animal. He felt depressed about it as he become to fear that this wild animal might kill him despite the fact that he saved him. After some times, he eventually came to know that he had to accept the fact that he stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean alone with Richard Parker. It was not soon after this decision, Pi realized that Richard Parker's companionship could help him to abate the fear not the source of developing fear. He came to accept because of Richard Parker's unexpected prusten call. ... *And I began to regain my senses* (Martel 218). Prusten is a quietest sound a tiger make to show that they are friendly. After hearing Richard Parker's friendly call, Pi felt relaxed. In the case of a teenager where he or she is facing problems with grades, he or she will try to argue that they studied, angry about the fact that he or she receives lower marks, try to make some adjustments between studies and friends, stress of handling two situations and finally have to decide ^{on} one. Here, this teenager needs his or her mother who will calm him or her down and help to choose the right decision. This shows that companion is needed to overcome the problems especially when dealing with grief.

Interesting perspective.

To make this section stronger, you should have stated how the prusten call gave him the affection and support that one would get from a caring other. Otherwise, much of this was very well explained.

Not only does Richard Parker help in alleviating ^{his} Pi's fear, he ^{also acts as an agent} also provides Pi ^{for Pi to socialize with.} ~~access an agent to socialize~~. Loneliness is a complex emotion, which is a result of isolation or absence of special ones. This can lead to state of solitude. In the article of Sorkin, ~~S.~~ Rook and ~~L.~~ Lu, lack of companionship and emotional support are the roots of loneliness (290). Therefore, to remain positive about the solitude, one needs a companion. Being a companion does not mean that one have to talk to the other to help he or she copes or give ^{advice is a word that is already pluralized.} ~~advice~~. Just by the presence ^{to} ~~by~~ their side relieve loneliness. *"I went through a dozen versions of what it was going to be like on the*

You only have to state the last names.

rescue ship, variations on the theme of sweet reunion" (Martel 158). In this moment, Pi is thinking that he would be so happy if he were to reunite with his family.

However, this does not happen with Pi on the lifeboat. Therefore, it shows that he is missing his family ~~so much~~. ^{a great deal.} Pi now becomes more solitude. He now needs companion more than ever. Eventually, Richard Parker shows his presence by killing the cruel hyena. As now, Pi knows that he is not alone in cruel situations. ... *If he died I would^{be} left alone with despair* (Martel 219). This clearly stated that the protagonist is relieved and saved by Richard Parker from going into extreme depression that could lead to mental illness.

Richard Parker is giving Pi a great companionship on dealing with fear of sadness and solitude but now Pi needs him to be hopeful once again. Hopelessness is one of the many feelings faced during moments of crisis. Hopelessness is a major threat that brings one's confidence and will down. In order to avoid hopelessness, one needs a companion to take care of. One has to be a caregiver for the other. In the novel, Pi took a charge to find food and water for Richard Parker. If he was not to do that, Richard Parker might die and ~~let him into~~ ^{fall into a state of} bereavement again (Martel Chapter 61). For a chronic illness like Alzheimer, one has to take a good care of his or her patient or family. Alzheimer's is disease where one can lose his or her brain function and it is not a curable disease. If the patient is not well cared, the person would lose his memories and ~~let~~ ^{lead} the caregiver into ^{a state of} despair if the patient is the only family member ~~or one who helped to have a better life~~ ^{they have} (O'Rourke, Claxton, I. Kupferschmidt, ~~X~~ Smith, and Beattie 118). Once they had lost their beloved person in situations that they could be saved, people ^{begin} to lose ~~their~~ hope. They feel like it is not meaningful to live on. As it is mentioned in above paragraphs, Richard Parker

If there are more than one author, you just have to write the first last name, and then after "et al".

plays a great role in Pi's life. Therefore he does not want to lose him and so he has to take care of him.

Companionship is having someone by one's side when faced with extreme grief and loneliness that would help the person to overcome and show that life is too short and exciting to waste it. Despite the fact that Richard Parker is a dangerous animal, Pi tries to make him as a friend and by succeedingⁱⁿ this, he is able to survive the traumatic journey. One may argue that religion or his ego^{are} ~~is~~ the roots for his survival. Being in the stage of bereavement, one cannot be able think of religion at the moment and one's ego cannot ~~either~~ be balanced. One may point out that making himself busy would distract Pi from feeling lonely. By doing things continuously, one's energy would be restrained. After some times~~,~~ one would not be ~~even~~ able to do the regular chores and therefore leads again to loneliness and hopelessness. Overall, having a companion in life could make one to get to a better future.

For how well you wrote this entire essay, this conclusion is just a bit too abrupt and sudden. You should have went back into speaking about the sheer benefits of having a companion to support you in trying times, and how even sometimes religion becomes the companion, where people use GOD as the "person" they rely on for support. It's okay, you wrote a very good essay, overall.

Work Cited

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