

3

A blockbuster



Let's Think

1. Are you a big fan of films? How often do you watch films?
2. Do you prefer watching tragedy films to comedy films? Why or why not?

You are Jane. You are reading a film review of an adventure drama film.

Life of Pi—A Review

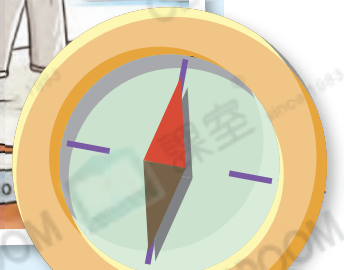
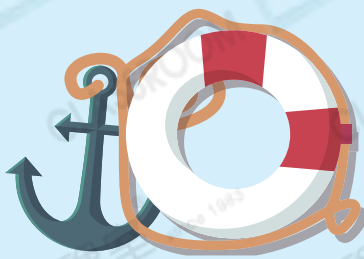
What comes to your mind when you are asked to think of misfortunes like a plane crash or a shipwreck? Many would come up with negative associations—death, despair, etc. The talented Taiwanese director Ang Lee, instead, portrays the power of positivity when one faces difficulties.

- 5 The film, *Life of Pi*, is based on Canadian writer Yann Martel's novel of the same title. The story kicks off with some extraordinary happenings to Pi, the main character of the film, which science cannot explain, hence everybody's belief in the existence of God.

- 10 The shipwreck takes place when Pi, the teenage son of a zookeeper, is immigrating from India to Canada with his family, bringing along the zoo animals. As they encounter a thunderstorm which sinks their ship, Pi, as the only human survivor, shares a lifeboat with a tiger, a zebra, a hyena and an orangutan for 227 days. The film follows their journey of survival in the sea.

- 15 The 3D technology used in the film brings the film to the next level. It enables the audience to feel and understand how Pi feels as he projects human qualities on the animals to go through the hardships that he has with his companions while drifting in the endless Pacific Ocean. Life is beyond imagination, isn't it?

(213 words)



Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the film review. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

1. Most people think _____ of misfortunes.

- A. ideally
- B. excitedly
- C. negatively
- D. hopefully

People associate misfortunes with death and despair. What feelings would be inspired in the audience by such associations?

2. The message delivered by the director through the film is about _____.

- A. optimism
- B. pessimism
- C. hopelessness
- D. death

3. Which of the following word best replaces 'kicks off' in paragraph 2?

- A. finishes
- B. sets
- C. develops
- D. starts

4. According to the film review, which of the following is **TRUE**?

- A. Ang Lee adapted the story *Life of Pi* for film.
- B. The shipwreck happens on the way to India.
- C. Pi continues his journey on a lifeboat with his family members after the shipwreck.
- D. Pi spends more than one year in the sea.

5. The writer mentions that it is _____ that enables the audience to feel how Pi feels.

- A. the sea animals
- B. the 3D technology
- C. the Pacific Ocean
- D. the misfortunes

Grammar Corner

We use the **passive voice** when we want to focus on the receiver of an action, rather than the performer of an action.

e.g. *What comes to your mind when you are asked to think of misfortunes like a plane crash or a shipwreck?*
(Lines 1-2)

Part B

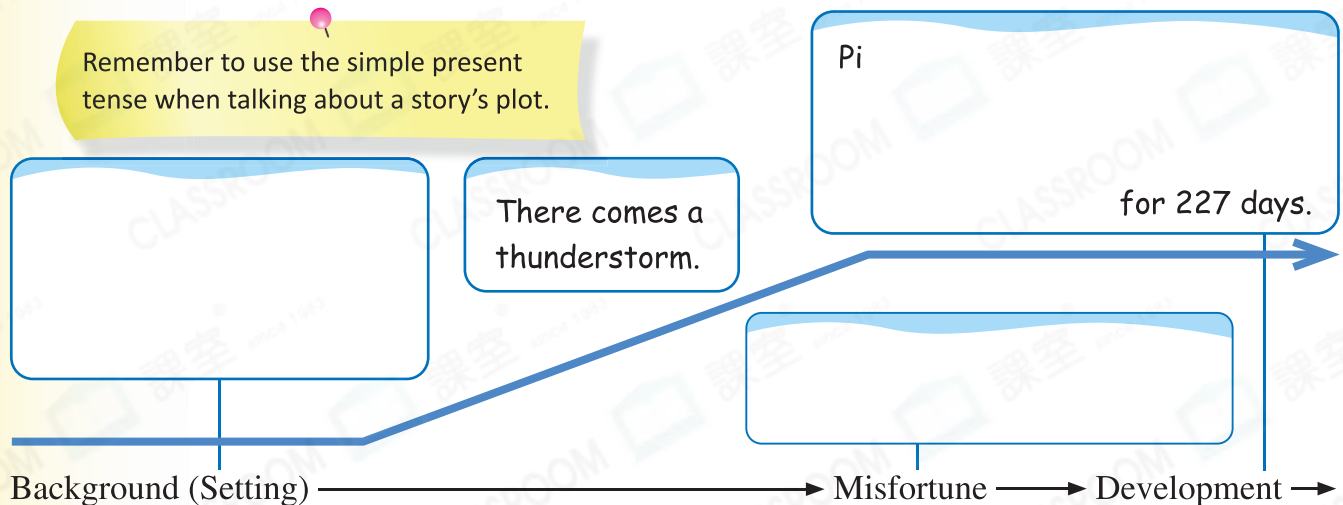
Answer the following questions using the information from the film review. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Where is the birthplace of Director Ang Lee?

2. Where does the plot of the film *Life of Pi* come from?

3. What happens to the family members of Pi? Find one expression or phrase from the passage to support your answer.

4. Fill in the following blanks with events that happen chronologically in the film.



HKDSE 5. The question at the end of the film review says 'Life is beyond imagination, isn't it?' What does it imply?

How is life similar to Pi's journey? What can we do?

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some film genres. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

war science fiction musical horror
 crime comedy action adventure romance



1.



2.



3.



4.



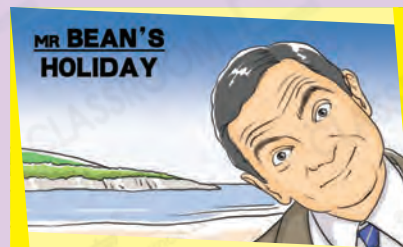
5.



6.



7.



8.

Let's Discuss

1. What type of film do you like the most? Why?
2. Do you think actors and actresses are the most important people in the film? Why or why not?