



The Killer Angels

By Michael Shaara

Teacher's Guide

By Mary Ellen Snodgrass



LIVING
LITERATURE
SERIES

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Synopsis

To the Reader

In a brief introductory note, Shaara explains his purpose in writing *The Killer Angels*, inviting comparisons with *The Red Badge of Courage* by quoting Stephen Crane as having wanted to describe what it was like to be there, on the battlefield. Shaara asserts that in an attempt at authenticity, he has "avoided historical opinions" and instead used actual memoirs of participants as a basis for his book.

Foreword: June 1863

On June 15, 1863, in the third summer of the American Civil War, General Robert E. Lee, soft-spoken Virginia gentleman and military genius, moves his 70,000 Confederate troops across the Potomac River and begins his invasion of the North. Later that same month, 80,000 men of the Army of the Potomac pursue Lee toward Gettysburg, a small German community in Pennsylvania, where the two armies will engage for the first three days of July.

I: THE ARMIES

The Confederate Army of 70,000 "rebels and volunteers" is mainly unpaid and self-equipped, with a common culture and strong common faith (English-speaking, Anglo-Saxon, and Protestant), and unified: "an army of remarkable unity, fighting for disunion." They have been highly successful beating much larger and better-equipped forces. By contrast, the 80,000-man Army of the Potomac is a disorganized, dispirited, rag-tag assemblage of poorly led men of many customs and languages: "It is a collection of men from many different

places who have seen much defeat and many different commanders," men who "have lost faith in their leaders but not in themselves." They expect to lose. They believe this will be the war's last battle and are grateful that it will be fought on home turf.

II: THE MEN

The major characters in the upcoming battle, the commanders, are introduced, with a brief discussion of their personalities, personal characteristics, and significance. There are nine on the Confederate ("gray") side: General Robert E. Lee; Lieutenant General James Longstreet; Major General George Pickett; Lieutenant General Richard Ewell; Major General Ambrose Powell Hill; Brigadier General Lewis Armistead; Brigadier General Richard Brooke Garnett; Lieutenant General J.E.B. Stuart; and Major General Jubal Early. There are five on the Union ("blue") side: Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain; Major General John Buford; Major General John Reynolds; Major General George Gordon Meade; and Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. The leaders and their armies approach

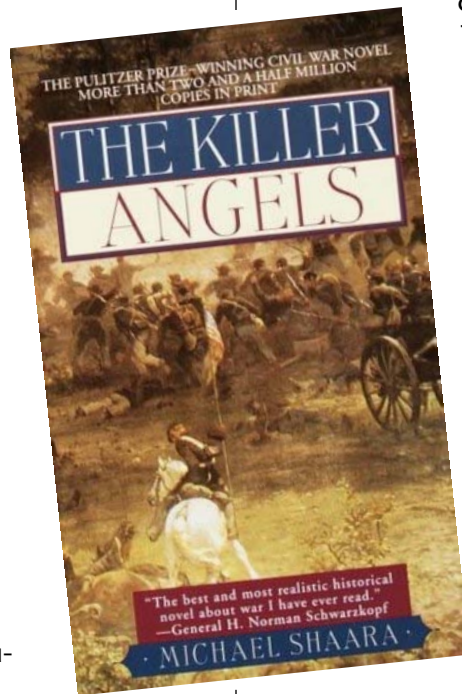
Gettysburg during hot, rainy summer weather.

Monday, June 29, 1863

This section introduces the reader to the circumstance just before the fighting begins.

1: THE SPY

In this chapter, we are introduced to Confederate General James Longstreet, one of the two main characters (Union Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain is the other). On June 29, Harrison, an actor turned spy, reports to Longstreet that seven corps of Union troops under the leadership of John Reynolds are approaching, pursuing the Confederates into Pennsylvania. The Confederate army, spread from York to Harrisburg, is depending



on early warning of their approach from J.E.B. Stuart, the free-spirited cavalry officer who enjoys harassing and pillaging Union supply trains; Harrison's information is crucial, because the Confederates have been "left blind" by Stuart's unexplained absence. Longstreet takes Harrison to Lee, who is headquartered at Chambersburg. In planning strategy, Lee takes into account the recent change in Union command—from Hooker to Meade, a Pennsylvanian who knows the terrain. Still adjusting to the recent loss of his military alter ego, Stonewall Jackson, Lee confers with Longstreet about the lay of the land. They settle on Gettysburg as a likely spot for the inevitable clash of opposing armies.

2: CHAMBERLAIN

On the Union side, Chamberlain, a canny, introspective New Englander who commands the 20th Maine Regiment, is awakened by his aide. He is still weak from heat stroke he suffered after a four-day march, during which he insisted on walking with the men instead of riding his horse. The aide informs him he is about to receive a group of 120 mutineers, strong Maine men who inadvertently signed on for three years of service instead of two, and who now insist on going home with the rest of their cohort at the end of two years of service. Chamberlain has orders—which he refuses to countenance—to shoot them if need be rather than let them leave. He orders the captives fed (they had been deliberately starved), then listens to the mutineers' representative as he wonders how he can guard 120 strong men with a Regiment that has been reduced from 1,000 last fall to fewer than 300 now. As he ponders what to do, he reflects on why he believes the Union forces are fighting: for the people, not the land, and to rid America of the "curse of nobility" that the South has attempted to transplant from the despotic Old World. The order arrives to start the march toward Gettysburg. As camp is struck, Chamberlain makes a decision: he talks to the mutineers as equals, assuring them he won't shoot them, and offering them the choice to remain prisoners for the time being, or to join him and fight for what's right. To his surprise and joy, 114 of the 120 men choose to join his Regiment for the upcoming battle.

3: BUFORD

General Buford surveys the high ground, including Cemetery Ridge and Little Round Top, south of

Gettysburg. He is the commander of the two Union cavalry divisions sent to hunt down the invading Confederate force. He watches the Confederate troop movements, realizing that the gray coats are massing troops for a fight. A seasoned fighter who longs for the wide-open spaces of the West, Buford has nearly lost his faith and is angry and disillusioned by the wasteful stupidity of much of the Union leadership. He sends an urgent message to General John Reynolds, one of the few whose word he still trusts, apprising him of the situation; Buford is afraid that Lee will return and take the town and surrounding hills before help arrives, but he takes the risk and assumes a defensive position anyway. Reynolds responds quickly, ordering Buford to hold the ground at Gettysburg, and promising reinforcements as early as possible in the morning. Buford orders a large evening meal for his troops and prepares for the upcoming fight.

4: LONGSTREET

In Longstreet's camp are foreign observers, including British Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Fremantle, representing Queen Victoria. Around the campfire, the Americans are attempting to teach the foreigners to play poker. Meanwhile, Longstreet stays apart from the group. A legendary poker player, he has not played since three of his children died the previous January, and he refuses to now. Instead, he broods about Jeb Stuart's failure to detect and give warning of the massing of Union troops at Gettysburg, and is frustrated to learn that General Lee has failed to credit an eyewitness report of the presence of Union cavalry there; he attributes it to Lee's unwillingness to believe that Stuart would let him down. Longstreet learns that General Hill plans to march into Gettysburg the next morning, despite reports of the Union cavalry presence.

The flamboyant Pickett rides into camp with his three brigade commanders: Armistead, Garrett, and Kemper. Longstreet introduces these four to Fremantle, then discusses strategy with Armistead. We learn that the Union commander, Hancock, was once Armistead's best friend. Longstreet and Armistead then return to the group, where they find several men explaining the Confederate "Cause" to Fremantle: the main issue, they assert, is not slavery but state's rights, and freedom from the "tyranny" of the Union. After midnight, Harrison returns with another report of Union cavalry at

Gettysburg. Longstreet sends a messenger to Lee, then lies awake, waiting for word that never arrives—Lee's aide, Major Taylor, has refused to wake the "Old Man" to give him the report, believing General Hill's assertion that there can't possibly be Union cavalry in the town. At chapter's end, one of Buford's pickets, a "boy from Illinois," watches from a tree as a row of Confederate skirmishers materialize through the mist. After a moment of paralysis and prayer, he takes the first shot.

Wednesday, July 1, 1863: The First Day

The first day of battle sees the Confederate victory over the Union defenses north of town, the Union establishment of new defenses south of town, and internal disputes in both camps and strategy discussions in both camps. Reinforcements arrive from both sides. Buford holds off the Confederate cavalry until Reynolds arrives. Longstreet discusses defensive warfare and honor with Fremantle.

1: LEE

Rain mists the air the morning of July 1. Lee begins the day in prayer. Coping with the after-effects of a fall from his horse, as well as with recently diagnosed heart disease, he is grateful that his pain is not great this morning. He ruminates about the terrible feeling of fragility and the ominous sense of time running out that he now has as a result of the heart ailment. His aide, Major Taylor, reports that General Hill is approaching Gettysburg, and General Ewell expects to be in Cashtown by midday; Hill discounts the reports of Union cavalry in Gettysburg (he believes they are merely militia). After discussion with Taylor, Lee orders the raiding parties to return some food to the locals and a blind horse to his elderly owner. Lee talks to two more aides, Marshall and Venable. Marshall is angry with Stuart and wants him court-marshaled; Venable takes Lee aside and asks him to speak with Dorsey Pender, who is distraught over a letter from his "pious" wife telling him she cannot pray for him since he has incurred God's judgment by becoming part of an invading force. Lee promises to speak with Pender, but privately feels a terrible guilt himself over his newfound role as invader.

Lee gains reassurance from the solid, common-sense presence of Longstreet, a brilliant soldier and, now that Stonewall Jackson is gone, Lee's only experienced commander. Lee asks Longstreet—who normally rides in front of his men—to stay

back in the upcoming battle, since he can't afford to lose him. Longstreet points out that "you cannot lead from behind," but ultimately capitulates at Lee's insistence. They discuss strategy. True to form, Longstreet counsels a defensive approach, but Lee insists on a single strategy—withhold from battle until the enemy is concentrated in one spot. As the chapter ends, Lee and Longstreet are interrupted by the sound of artillery fire—evidence that Hill has run into Buford's forces.

2: BUFORD

Henry Heth's brigade (of Hill's corps) suffers losses after going against Buford's Union forces in the mistaken belief that they are merely local militia. The battle becomes less one-sided after Heth sets up his own cannon. Meanwhile, Buford considers withdrawing, since he knows Confederate reinforcements are much closer than his own, but then Reynolds arrives with two fresh Union infantry corps to replace Buford's two battle-worn cavalry brigades. Moments after arriving, Reynolds is shot off his horse and killed. Buford is stunned by the sudden loss of Reynolds, who was "too good a man." Though now leaderless, the Union corps keeps fighting, and the line holds. Buford watches the battle for a bit, then rides north with the remainder of his cavalry; he'll hold off the Confederates as long as he is able.

3: LEE

Lee moves his headquarters to Cashtown near Powell Hill. He is frustrated by the lack of battle information from the still-missing Stuart, and his faith in Ewell and Hill is wavering. Through field glasses, Lee observes Heth, backed by Dorsey Pender, in a tight situation as he pulls back from an engagement with Buford. But the tables turn; Lee receives word that Rodes and Early, the heads of Ewell's two divisions, have just reached the scene from the North and are positioned at the Union's right flank. Further, Reynolds is reported dead. Lee is personally sorry for this—Reynolds was a gentleman and a friend—but takes the unexpected, though incomplete, victory as a gift from God. Still, Lee, uncomfortable with his role as invader, is uneasy about the situation since Longstreet's men have yet to move into position. Shortly after Lee concludes that command is too loose, messages arrive with important information—Heth has been wounded; the enemy is falling back. Lee orders Ewell to pursue the fleeing Federals and

to make sure they don't occupy the heights south of town, where Lee makes an effort to place artillery. Longstreet arrives and congratulates the commander-in-chief on his victory. He concludes that Lee's next move should be to swing around the enemy on the southern end, cut off contact with Washington, and establish a hold on high ground. It is at this point that the great disparity between Longstreet and Lee becomes apparent—whereas Longstreet has the patience to pursue a waiting game with the newly-appointed Meade, Lee wants to press on from his current stance to a quick finish. At 5 p.m., bone-weary and feeling his age, Lee quibbles with his first officer and waits for Ewell to attack during the remaining two hours of daylight.

4: CHAMBERLAIN

On the Union side, Chamberlain and his men march through Maryland and into Pennsylvania. Once in Pennsylvania, the local people become friendlier and start giving the men free food. Chamberlain overhears his brother, Tom, tell one of the ex-mutineers about the division. Contemplative and humanistic, Chamberlain reflects on the unexpected joys of Army life. He recalls an oration he once made: "Man, the Killer Angel." He distracts himself of thoughts of the horrors of Fredericksburg by dwelling on more pleasant memories. His reverie is interrupted by a false rumor that McClellan has taken command of the Army of the Potomac; for one hopeful moment, Chamberlain believes it. Chamberlain realizes the importance of a charismatic leader, and prays for a unifying force. Just after midnight, Chamberlain and his men reach Gettysburg.

5: LONGSTREET

On the Confederate side, Longstreet, too, is deep in thought. He sees disaster coming, and he is haunted by memories: of the deaths of his three children; of his temporary madness from grief; of his inability, in his grief, to comfort his inconsolable wife; of his loss of faith in God as a result of the tragedy. He meets Fremantle, the Englishman, who is full of admiration for Lee and his gentlemanly worldview. Fremantle is oblivious to Longstreet's underlying skepticism, and doesn't understand his statement that "Honor without intelligence ... could lose the war." It is Longstreet's curse to see behind the surface of things, to brilliantly discern without being able to persuade. He understands

honor but recognizes the foolish futility of dying for it; he understands the lionization of Stonewall Jackson but recognizes the edge of cruelty and insanity that were part of Jackson's character. Longstreet attempts to explain his ideas of defensive warfare to Fremantle, but gives up, realizing that Fremantle is a typical gentleman who "would rather lose the war than his dignity." Finally, Longstreet stays up as late as he can, talking around the campfire, to put off as long as possible the moment when he is alone in the dark and can't escape the faces of his dead children.

6: LEE

Lee, already angered by Ewell's failure to take the hills south of town, grows increasingly frustrated with Ewell's continual deference to the coldly arrogant Jubal Early (whom Longstreet despises). When Lee asks why Ewell did not take the heights (now occupied by the Union), Ewell stalls, and Early justifies their actions, claiming there had been more federal troops spotted to the north. After dismissing his men, Lee retires for the night, reflecting on the changes in Ewell since his injury but resolving not to judge. Lee knows the decisive battle is coming, and ponders whether to attack before Stuart returns—and wonders if Stuart will arrive at all, and if so, whether he will provide adequate backup. Lee falls asleep on a prayer.

7: BUFORD

On the Union side, Buford, wounded in the left arm, returns to headquarters from Cemetery Hill, where troops are digging in at the crest. He asks who is in command, and is astonished to witness a heated dispute on this question among the officers. According to military precedent, General Oliver Howard is in command, but he revealed the same lack of leadership earlier in the day that he had in Chancellorsville, and the men have turned to General Hancock, who saved the day and is the natural leader. They are bolstered by word that Hancock has a verbal order from General Meade to take command. Buford petitions Hancock for orders, discusses Reynolds's death, and is dismissed to rest as Meade arrives. Buford stops in the cemetery, reflecting on John Reynolds' death. He cannot find the white angel statue that was in the cemetery before the battle.

Thursday, July 2, 1863: The Second Day

On Thursday, the Union wins a victory on Little

Round Top. Lee makes plans for the next day: a brave attack at the center of the Union forces. Fremantle and Chamberlain theorize about the causes of the war, with differing conclusions. Longstreet attacks the Union's left flank, as Chamberlain defends it. Longstreet broods over his loss at Little Round Top. Stuart returns, and is reprimanded by Lee.

1: FREMANTLE

Movement begins before dawn on July 2. Rebel troops are aware that Union forces are dug in and that Lee is pressing for an all-out attack. Fremantle encounters Longstreet, who explains Meade's strategy: gather strength and stall. Musing over the quandary of slavery, Fremantle decides that the "Northerner doesn't give a damn for tradition, or breeding, or the Old Country." He concludes that the war arose from a difference in culture more than a debate over slavery: "[T]he South is the Old Country. They haven't left Europe. They've merely transplanted it." His theory receives a challenge when he learns that "Longstreet" is Dutch, not English, but Fremantle recovers his complacency quickly: Longstreet must be an exception, and anyway, he's not a Virginian.

2: CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain encounters an escaped African slave, whom the army surgeon is examining. The man has been shot, and doesn't even speak much English: a recent import. Like Fremantle, Chamberlain reflects on the cause of the conflict: His summation, based on gut feeling, is that the whole issue is "brutally clear": "To be alien, and alone, among white lords and glittering machines, uprooted by brute force and threat of death from the familiar earth of what he did not even know was Africa, to be shipped in black stinking darkness across an ocean he had not dreamed existed, forced then to work on alien soil, strange beyond belief, by men with guns whose words he could not even comprehend." That is cause for conflict. After treating the black man, Chamberlain sends him to safety, then embarks on a discussion with Kilrain about race and human nature. Chamberlain believes implicitly in the equality of all human beings regardless of race; all people, he believes, have a "divine spark" that distinguishes them from animals. This, for him, makes slavery not only a sin, but incomprehensible: "How can they look in the eyes of a man and make a slave of him and then

quote the Bible?" Kilrain is much more cynical and pragmatic. He believes that, although slavery is a terrible injustice, freed blacks as a group will turn out to be no better than whites as a group, although that is hardly the point, since men, black and white, are good or bad as individuals only, and "any man who judges by the group is a peawit." The important thing, he says, is justice—to create an opportunity for the individual to excel, and to abolish an unfair and evil class system that robs the individual of his rights. The only true aristocracy, Kilrain believes, is one of mind and will—and Chamberlain is a member, although he doesn't realize it. Kilrain will happily fight against the false aristocracy of the Confederacy, and for a country "where the past cannot keep a good man in chains."

3: LONGSTREET

At Confederate headquarters, Lee tries to convince Longstreet of the wisdom of attacking the Union left to draw off Union forces from the hills to the north, enabling Ewell to attack. Longstreet won't be persuaded, but as a loyal soldier he will follow the order nevertheless—even though he views this approach as a recipe for disaster. For days, he has been arguing that the Confederate army should move between the Union army and Washington, D.C., and dig in, drawing Meade's forces in what would be a defensive battle. Lee, on the other hand, hopes to achieve a decisive victory with a direct attack. Although he will carry out orders, Longstreet insists he needs at least an hour to gather his forces. Grumbling at the lack of reconnaissance from J.E.B. Stuart, Longstreet prepares for battle.

Later, as the two generals ride out to the battle, they experience a brief sense of giddy excitement in anticipation of the fight. In an unusually open moment, Lee speaks of the "trap of soldiering": a general never expects to lose all his men, but he must risk them all to achieve victory. Longstreet, too, opens up, confessing that he has difficulty viewing the Union as the enemy, having fought alongside many of these same men in Mexico. Longstreet also muses about the oath to the Union both men swore to uphold. Lee insists that they cannot be distracted by those considerations, and he sends Longstreet off to carry out the attack. Longstreet complies; however, due to the lack of reconnaissance from Stuart, Longstreet almost

marches his men into the Union line of sight, and is forced to take a long detour to keep his men hidden, delaying his arrival at the field. During this process, the angry Longstreet mulls over Stuart's behavior. He believes Stuart should be punished severely, but knows Lee will never court-martial him. Longstreet is again surprised when he is finally in position: the Union forces have moved forward off the hills and have dug into the road by the peach orchard. Although Hood wants to move to the right and attack the Federals from the rear, Longstreet knows there is now no time to communicate with Lee, and he orders Hood to go forward with the assault as planned. As the chapter ends, the Confederates are charging up the hill to attack the Union position.

4: CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain and Kilrain awaken to the sound of Longstreet's attack. Chamberlain receives orders to move his troops to a defensive position in the hills just south of Cemetery Ridge. Meanwhile, Sickles, the Union general, is being beaten by Longstreet in a fight in the road below the ridge. Chamberlain marches his men double-time to reach the fight.

At the hill known as Little Round Top, Colonel Vincent reminds Chamberlain that his troops form the extreme left of the Union line and must hold it at all costs. If the Confederates break the line, they can flank the entire Union army. As he positions his men to defend the hill, Chamberlain ponders the possibility that they will all be killed. They are well dug in by the time the Rebels appear through the forest.

The Union defenses hold, but the Rebels keep coming in waves. Faced with dwindling manpower and munitions, Chamberlain orders his men to take ammunition from the dead and to spread out to avoid being flanked; he reflexively uses his brother, Tom, to fill a hole in the line. (Although Tom survives, the decision will haunt Chamberlain for the rest of his life.) Finally, after heavy losses and with ammunition running out, Chamberlain makes a last-ditch attempt to drive the Rebels back: screaming, he leads his men in a bayonet charge down the hill. The ploy works: the Confederate troops, taken by surprise, surrender, and Chamberlain wins the critical (and soon-to-be-famous) Battle of Little Round Top. However, he has also lost at least 100 of the 300 men who

remained in the Twentieth Maine. He himself has been wounded in the foot, and his trusted aide, Kilrain, has received another wound as well. Later, he speaks with the new brigade commander, Colonel Rice (who has replaced the fallen Vincent); Rice commends Chamberlain's action and orders him to move his troops to Big Round Top. For the Twentieth Maine, the fighting is over for the day. Wounded but proud, Kilrain is taken to the hospital. Earlier, he has told Chamberlain that he has "never served under a better man." After saying goodbye to Kilrain, Chamberlain savors his victory.

5: LONGSTREET

After a disastrous day, Longstreet visits the field hospital where medics are treating General Hood. Longstreet lies to Hood (who has been severely injured and given drugs to make him sleep), telling him that the charge was a success and casualties were not severe. After leaving Hood, Longstreet orders his aid, Captain Goree, to scout the surrounding area. Goree confesses to having punched one of Hood's officers; unable to admit that Lee could have made a mistake, they are blaming Longstreet and spreading rumors that the defeat was his fault. Longstreet's chief aide, Sorrel, arrives with the truth about the day's losses: 8,000 men—nearly half of Hood's division—have been killed, injured, or captured. Longstreet has a flicker of hope upon learning that Pickett has arrived with 5,000 fresh troops.

Longstreet heads back toward Lee's headquarters. There, he finds Stuart waiting outside, surrounded by admirers and reporters. Longstreet avoids him. He goes in the tent to speak to Lee, who believes the battle was closer than it was and insists that they will attack again tomorrow. Longstreet makes one final plea to take the Confederate army around to the right, between the Union Army and Washington, D.C., but is again rebuffed by Lee. Longstreet leaves, feeling hopeless. Outside, he encounters Marshall, who insists Longstreet persuade Lee to court-martial Stuart. Longstreet knows this will never happen, but agrees to speak to Lee anyway.

On the way back to camp, Longstreet encounters the Englishman Fremantle, who congratulates him on his "victory" and praises Lee as the most "devious" officer he has ever seen. Unwilling to let this claptrap pass, Longstreet laughs bitterly and

informs Fremantle that Lee wins not through tactics but through the faith of his men. Longstreet begins to vent his frustration with Lee—especially the tactical weakness of Lee’s command—but thinks better of it. Remembering himself, he excuses himself from Fremantle, privately resolving to try once more, in the morning, to persuade Lee to change course.

Finally, Longstreet encounters Lew Armistead, who is anxious and heartbroken to be fighting against his old friend, Winfield Hancock. Longstreet assures Armistead that a visit between Armistead and Hancock would be allowed. The two men then head to the Confederate officers’ party around the campfire, where they forget their troubles for a few hours.

6: LEE

That night, at the Confederate camp, Lee ponders his course of action, musing about how he once swore to defend the land he is now attacking. He considers a retreat, but doesn’t want to demoralize his army. Stuart appears and is gently but firmly rebuked for his failure to provide reconnaissance. Stuart offers to resign his commission, but Lee will not accept his resignation. Instead, he tells Stuart to get back to work.

An aide appears with a report: Ewell’s camp is in much disarray because Ewell defers too much to Early. Further, Early and Ewell got their men moving so late that they arrived when Longstreet was almost done with his attack, ruining the plan to divide Union forces. Lee thinks now that since he has already attacked the Union on both sides, he should attack them in the center. He decides to send his forces to the center of Cemetery Ridge to break the Union army in two, then send Stuart around to the rear to finish them off. Pickett will lead tomorrow’s charge.

Friday, July 3, 1863: The Third Day

On Friday, Lee’s plan to charge the Union center fails spectacularly; the Confederates are forced to retreat and must give up the invasion of the North. Longstreet continues to argue the need to fight a defensive war with Lee, but Lee continues to rebuff him, sealing the Rebels’ doom. The attack goes forth as planned, culminating in the disastrous Confederate attack on Cemetery Hill that comes to be known as Pickett’s Charge. At the end of the

action, Longstreet observes the Rebel retreat, and the victorious Chamberlain surveys the battlefield.

1: CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain awakens after having spent the night on Big Round Top. His foot aches. He stands on the hilltop and watches the armies awaken, taunted by the smell of coffee—his regiment has no coffee, food, or ammunition. He thinks about his wife and children, and about how much his life has changed in a year; he fears that after experiencing the exhilaration of battle, he will not feel quite alive when he returns to civilian life. Presently, Tom arrives with coffee obtained from a corpse, and the two discuss Chamberlain’s lack of fear in the previous day’s battle, the bravery of the Rebels, and the fact that the men shied away from using the bayonets.

From their vantage point, the brothers see artillery fire in Cemetery Hill, and Chamberlain has another urgent message sent to Colonel Rice, reporting the this information and asking for ammunition. Chamberlain is starting to be angry: his regiment saved the entire Union Army yesterday, and now they have no food or ammunition. Finally, an emissary arrives from Colonel Rice. He brings his compliments from the colonel, along with orders to fall back so Chamberlain’s men can rest. As the colonel’s lieutenant begins to lead him to his new position, Chamberlain asks where it is. The answer: a lovely, peaceful spot, “right smack dab in the center of the line.”

2: LONGSTREET

In the Confederate camp, Goree returns from a scouting mission to report that it is still possible to move Confederate troops between the Union army and Washington, although some Union forces are moving to flank the Confederates’ right side. Lee arrives, telling Longstreet he wants him to lead the charge into the center of the Union line. Longstreet foresees disaster in an uphill fight over one mile of open ground with weary, demoralized soldiers, and he tries one last time to persuade Lee to change course. Lee, however, insists—he believes the Union line will break. For a moment, Lee’s marble façade slips, revealing weariness and pain, and Longstreet feels a sudden surge of compassion for the old general. Feeling hopeless, Longstreet departs and assembles his division commanders: Pickett, Trimble, and Pettigrew. He knows he must hide his misgivings from his men,

who don't realize the futility of the attack. Stirred by patriotism and believing they can win, Trimble and Pettigrew each grasp his hand in the emotion of the moment. Amid all the talk of prayer and God's will, Longstreet looks at Lee and thinks, "It isn't God that is sending those men up that hill." Longstreet knows most of the men will die; for a moment, he considers resigning his commission and refusing to lead the charge. However, he realizes, despairingly, that he can't even do that—the charge will go forward whether he participates or not, and he cannot abandon his men.

3: CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain and his regiment march to the center of Cemetery Ridge. Chamberlain is surprised to learn that General Meade had wanted to retreat that morning, but had been overruled by the consensus of the other generals, who were confident that the Confederates would attack again and could be repelled. Chamberlain discusses yesterday's charge, led by General Hancock, of the First Minnesota with Lieutenant Pitzer—they saved the Union line, but in the process, all but forty of the 300 Minnesota men died. General Sykes approaches, praises Chamberlain, and hints that he is considering Chamberlain for brigade commander. At the generals' camp, Chamberlain manages to obtain a few chicken wings, which he brings back to the men of his regiment. There, Tom breaks the news that Kilrain has died.

Suddenly, Confederate artillery fire explodes around them. Chamberlain crawls to safety behind a stone wall, where he drifts in and out of sleep as the cannon shells land all around. His last thought, before he drifts into sleep again, is that he must form his regiment for the coming fight.

4: ARMISTEAD

General Lew Armistead anticipates the battle, remembering old times with Hancock and loved ones as he watches Confederate artillery fire on the Union center line. He comes across Pickett laboriously writing a letter to his girlfriend before the battle, and on an impulse that he himself takes to be a premonition, Armistead takes off his ring and tells Pickett to give it, "with my compliments," to the lady. Pickett shakes his hand and expresses his enthusiasm for the upcoming fight. Armistead wanders away, musing on his life, on memories of beloved wife, now dead, and wishes Hancock was

not on the hill. He encounters Garnett, who is using his bad leg as an excuse to ride into battle, despite Lee's order that nobody is to ride because they would be easy targets—this is transparently a suicide mission for Garnett, who believes a heroic death will restore the honor he lost due to Stonewall Jackson's accusations. Armistead and Pickett ride into the woods to meet Longstreet, who is sitting on his horse. They realize he is crying. Longstreet gives the order for the charge, and Pickett gleefully rides off. Armistead forms his brigade, and he marches them double-time toward the line. A let-up in Union artillery fire turns out to be merely a ploy to get the Confederates out in the open. Men are fleeing and falling all around, and Garnett's riderless horse runs by. Armistead approaches the wall, realizing he doesn't have enough men, but he and a few others reach their objective before they are shot anyway. Armistead himself is mortally wounded. He opens his eyes to see his forces vanquished. Armistead asks his captor for news of his friend General Hancock. He entrusts the Federal soldier with a message to Hancock, sending his regrets. Then Armistead drifts into death.

5: LONGSTREET

Longstreet sits on a rail fence on Seminary Ridge, watching in wordless horror the carnage of Pickett's Charge. His worst fears have been confirmed. As the Confederate retreat streams around Longstreet, Pickett's aide Harry Bright rides up, screaming for reinforcements. Longstreet shakes his head, making bright understand: all nine brigades have already been sent in; he has no more men. He tells bright to instruct Pickett to fall back, and arranges for a battery to move down the slope to cover Pickett's retreat. Garnett's riderless horse runs by. Fremantle looks at Longstreet's face and offers him a drink, which Longstreet refuses. Outraged, horrified, overwhelmed, and disgusted, Longstreet decides: enough is enough. He grabs a rifle with plans to join the last battery of guns firing at Union troops: a suicide mission. He sees Lee riding among the troops, taking full blame for the defeat; he insists on this truth, despite his soldiers' attempts to argue otherwise. Longstreet watches Lee rally his troops and realizes that he will never, ever forgive Lee. Pickett rides up, and is commanded by Lee to reform his division. Pickett, in tears, replies that he has no division: all his colonels, and most of his men, are gone. He keeps asking Lee,

“What about my men?”

Longstreet keeps moving toward his goal, directing the firing, as shells burst around him, shaking off his frightened staff members’ attempts to impede his progress. Finally, though, he realizes that the firing has stopped: the Union army has withdrawn. In his distressed state, he interprets this as a lack of God’s mercy. Finally, he comes to rest, and his aide, Goree, comforts him, telling him, “It’s no good trying to get yourself killed, General. The Lord will come for you in His own time.” Later, Lee rides over to see Longstreet. Lee admits that he was wrong and Longstreet was right. Now, they are to withdraw to the river, where they will be safe. A vulnerable moment on Lee’s part breaks through Longstreet’s numbness, and he suddenly feels pity for Lee. For once, the two Confederate generals are honest with each other. Longstreet knows the Confederate army will never recover from this defeat. Lee, neither agreeing or disagreeing, acknowledges that he and Longstreet are continuing the fight for the men, not for the Cause, but asserts that they can do nothing else. In his acceptance of defeat, Lee adds the obvious fact: “I become ... very tired.”

He will not accept Longstreet’s resignation. Lee needs Longstreet, and for this reason Longstreet decides to stay. He rides off to order the retreat.

6: CHAMBERLAIN

Chamberlain, the philosopher, surveys the battlefield. He realizes that he was “present at one of the great moments in history.” Tom, impressed by Johnny Reb’s courage and dedication to the Cause, asks how men can fight so bravely for slavery. Chamberlain shakes his head and thinks, “Animal meat: the Killer Animals.” Yet he considers, and rejects, Kilrain’s theory that there is no divine spark. Moved by pity for the stretch of mangled dead that litter the field under drizzly skies, he mutters, “Well, they’re all equal now”—“in the sight of God, anyways,” as his brother says.

Rain is coming; it’s time to move. Tom asks Chamberlain if he thinks there will be more fighting, and Chamberlain nods. He realizes, with an “appalling thrill,” that he is eager for another battle. He is amazed at his own reaction. Finally, giving a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the honor of being present this day, he returns to his men. The

chapter closes as the rainfall washes the blood from the field; tomorrow is the Fourth of July.

Afterword

Summation of what happened to the key characters in the book who survived the Battle of Gettysburg.

Civil War Timeline

1860

December 20 South Carolina secedes from the Union by unanimous vote.

1861

February 18 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as President of the Confederacy.

April 20 Colonel Robert E. Lee takes command of the Virginia troops.

May 6 The Confederacy declares war on the United States.

July 16-21 Beauregard and McDowell clash at Manassas (the First Battle of Bull Run)

1862

February 5 Julia Ward Howe publishes “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” in the *Atlantic Monthly*.

March 11 Lincoln removes General McClellan as commander of the Union Army.

April 6-7 General Grant defeats General Johnston at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee.

August 30 Lee is victorious at Manassas (the Second Battle of Bull Run)

September 15 Jackson captures Harper’s Ferry, Virginia, as a part of Lee’s invasion of the North.

September 17-18 Lee withdraws from Sharpsburg, Maryland, after the Battle of Antietam.

November 5 General Burnside replaces General McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac.

December 11-15 Burnside achieves a costly victory over Lee at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

1863
January 1 Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves.
January 26 Lincoln fires Burnside and places General Hooker in charge of the Union Army.
April 28-May 4 Lee defeats Hooker and capture Chancellorsville, Virginia.
May 10 General Jackson dies as a result of complications following the amputation of his left arm.
June 3 Lee launches a second invasion of the North at Fredericksburg, Virginia.
June 28 Lincoln fires Hooker and elevates General Meade to the post of commander-in-chief of Union forces.
July 1-3 Meade defeats Lee at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Total loss for both sides comes to 43,500.
July 4-8 Pemberton surrenders to Grant at Vicksburg. Union forces control the Mississippi River.
September 19-20 Rosecrans battles Bragg and Longstreet to a stalemate at Chickamauga, Tennessee.
November 19 Lincoln dedicates a national cemetery at Gettysburg.

1864
March 12 Grant advances to the rank of lieutenant general and becomes chief of the Union Army.
May 4-11 Lee and Grant clash in the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, Virginia. Stuart is fatally wounded.
July 9-12 Early defeats Wallace and invades the outskirts of Washington, D.C.
November 9 General Sherman begins his march through Georgia to the sea.

1865
January 31 Robert E. Lee is named General-in-Chief of the

Confederacy.
April 2-3 Jefferson Davis withdraws from Richmond to Danville to establish a new Confederate capital.
April 9 Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
April 14 John Wilkes Booth fatally shoots Lincoln, who dies the next day in Washington.

Author Sketch

Michael Joseph Shaara, Jr. was born in 1929 to Italian immigrants in Jersey City, New Jersey ("Shaara" was originally spelled "Sciarra"). He graduated from Rutgers University in 1951, determined to become a writer. He published award-winning science fiction and straight fiction stories, eventually writing for such popular magazines as *Redbook*, *McCall's*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*, and two of his stories were produced as television dramas in the late 1950s. He also served as an airborne infantry officer during the Korean War.



Having completed post-graduate work at Columbia University and the University of Vermont, Shaara moved with his young family to Florida in the mid-1950s and took a position teaching literature and creative writing at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He continued to write at night while teaching during the day. His relentless drive and coffee-and-cigarettes diet took their toll, leading to a massive heart attack at the age of 36, in 1965. During this time, however, he had completed his first novel, *The Broken Place*, about a Korean War veteran who becomes a prizefighter. Published in 1968, *The Broken Place* was a critical success but a commercial failure.

Disappointed but determined, Shaara continued, taking seven years to write his second novel, *The Killer Angels*, which was inspired by a family trip to Gettysburg. *The Killer Angels* received fifteen rejections before being published in 1973 by a small independent publisher, David McKay Publishers (subsequently bought by Random House). This second novel received little attention and mixed reviews, so it came as a shock to the literary com-

munity in general and Shaara in particular when it won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1975. However, sales continued to be disappointing, and Shaara began writing in a different vein. Suffering the after-effects of a devastating motorcycle accident, in 1981 he published one more novel, *The Herald* (later retitled *The Noah Conspiracy*), as well as a manuscript for a baseball story that was rejected by New York publishers. Finally, after a long decline in health, Shaara suffered a second, fatal heart attack on May 5, 1988.

The story doesn't end there, however—under the literary executorship of his son, Jeffrey, Michael Shaara's legacy has lived on. *The Killer Angels* was made into a critically acclaimed film, *Gettysburg*, in 1993, propelling the book to the *New York Times* bestseller list nineteen years after its initial publication. The rejected baseball manuscript was published as well, in 1991; titled *For Love of the Game*, it was later made into a major film starring Kevin Costner and Kelly Preston. Finally, son Jeffrey has become a critically acclaimed, best-selling author of historical novels in his own right, in a sense continuing his father's work. He is especially well-known for two Civil War novels: *Gods and Generals* (1996), a prequel to *The Killer Angels*, and *The Last Full Measure* (1998), a sequel. In 1997, Jeffrey Shaara established the annual Michael Shaara Prize for Excellence in Civil War Fiction, awarded by Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

Critic's Corner

Although sometimes compared to Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*, *The Killer Angels*, by contrast, emphasizes the decisions, motivations, experiences, and actions of the generals and colonels in the battle instead of those of the common soldiers. Shaara himself said he was aiming to produce an epic military study along the lines of Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Shaara received the highly coveted Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the novel in 1975, a feat that caused critics to take a closer look at his work.

Although now regarded as a classic, at the time of its publication, the fictionalized account of the Civil War's infamous Battle of Gettysburg received mixed reviews, with critics such as Thomas LeClair contending that "Shaara lingers too long on personality for its own sake," and dwells on General Longstreet while slighting General Meade. (Shaara based part of his book on Longstreet's memoirs, and the book and subsequent movie have been

credited with rehabilitating Longstreet's reputation, which had declined after the Civil War, chiefly due to a smear campaign mounted by pro-Confederate revisionists angry at Longstreet's change of allegiance to the Union and eager to shift blame for the defeat away from the revered Robert E. Lee.) On the positive side, contemporary reviewer Edward Weeks declared the work a "stirring, brilliantly interpretative novel."

More recently, the book continues to inspire historians and laymen alike, including such Civil War historian James M. McPherson (author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom*), and famed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns. McPherson called it "My favorite historical novel," asserting that "its real importance is its insight into what the war was about, and what it meant." Burns called it "a book that changed my life," inspiring him to produce his acclaimed PBS series *The Civil War*. Retired U.S. General described *The Killer Angels* as "the best and most realistic historical novel about war that I have ever read." Even such a pop culture figure as Oscar-nominated writer/director (and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator) Joss Whedon has cited the book as an influence: it served as an inspiration for his science fiction/Western hybrid series .

Selected Works by Michael Shaara

Novels

The Broken Place, 1958
The Killer Angels, 1974
The Noah Conspiracy, 1981
Soldier Boy, 1982
For Love of the Game, 1991

Selected Works by Jeffrey Shaara

Gods and Generals, 1996
The Last Full Measure, 1998
Gone for Soldiers, 2000
Rise to Rebellion, 2001
The Glorious Cause, 2002
To the Last Man, 2004
Jeff Shaara's Civil War Battlefields: Discovering America's Hallowed Ground, 2006
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Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen, *Gettysburg: A Novel of the Civil War*

Internet

Dred Scott decision, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dred_Scott_v._Sandford>

"Guide to Civil War Novels," database of novels by author, title, and date, <http://www.uta.edu/english/tim/civilwar/index.html>>

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- <http://www.civilwar.com/>
- <http://americancivilwar.com/>
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- <http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-ar/warweb.html>
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Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*

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Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals*

Kent Gramm, *Gettysburg: A Meditation on War and Valor*

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, *Army Life in a Black Regiment*

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Thomas Keneally, *American Scoundrel: The Life of the Notorious Civil War General Dan Sickles*

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Mary Elizabeth Massey, *Refugee Life in the Confederacy*

James M. McPherson:

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- *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*
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- *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*
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James L. Swanson, *Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer, and Lincoln's Assassins: Their Trial and Execution*

Richard Wheeler, *Witness to Appomattox and Witness to Gettysburg*

Bell Irvin Wiley and James I. Robertson, *The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy*

Garry Wills, *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America*

General Objectives

1. To relate elements of the setting to the action of the novel
2. To discuss self-image as it relates to the individual characters
3. To note the importance of circumstance and coincidence
4. To envision the physical exigencies of the battlefield
5. To contrast the importance of patriotism and sectionalism
6. To analyze relationships between officers and enlisted men
7. To discuss pride and its influence upon effectiveness
8. To note the effect of shift in point of view at crucial moments in the battle
9. To comment on the stark reality of personal sacrifice
10. To analyze the elements of leadership

Specific Objectives

1. To explain unfamiliar battlefield terminology, such as enfilade and brevetted and other terms of French origin
2. To contrast Lee's relationships with Longstreet and Pickett
3. To note the various preliminary stages that precede engagement
4. To explain the importance of slavery to Confederate soldiers
5. To define the concept of the Cause
6. To characterize Harrison's role
7. To account for Fremantle's role in the battle
8. To discuss the lasting influence of Stonewall Jackson
9. To explain how fate can be a combination of good and bad
10. To explain why the appointment of General Meade is an unknown in Lee's strategy
11. To debate the next moves for both armies in the aftermath of Gettysburg
12. To set this battle into the context of the whole war

Themes and Motifs

Themes

- "Old-style" warfare (Lee) versus "modern" warfare (Longstreet)
- Loyalty to ideals versus loyalty to individuals and individual goals
- The ever-presence of death in war
- How the Civil War divided individuals and the nation as a whole
- Official reasons for fighting the war versus personal reasons
- Courage and heroism against terrifying odds
- Man as "angel" versus man as "animal"
- The contrast between the homogeneous, aristocratic South and the melting-pot North of the common man

Motifs

- Loyalty
- Honor versus pragmatism
- The cult of aristocracy
- The cult of the common man
- Failures of leadership

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Michael Shaara's style, present the following terms and applications to *The Killer Angels*:

Suspense: the feeling of tension or anticipation an author creates in a work as the reader tries to figure out what will happen next. Although *The Killer Angels* is based on history and the general outcome is already known at the beginning of the book, Shaara creates suspense by focusing on individual characters' actions and reactions moment by moment; we are drawn into the story through those who are experiencing it, and for whom the outcome is still uncertain. This is in line with Shaara's stated goal to emulate Stephen Crane, who wrote that his intention in *The Red Badge of Courage* was to discover how the soldiers felt.

Imagery: words that appeal to one or more of our five senses—sight, hearing, taste, touch, or smell. Shaara makes extensive use of imagery in *The Killer Angels* with his descriptions of the weather, the battlefield conditions, and the experience and aftermath of combat.

Conflict: a struggle or fight central to the story. Conflict makes a story interesting because readers want to learn the outcome. There are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. Stories often contain both external and internal conflicts. The external conflict in *The Killer Angels* is obvious: the Civil War in general, and the Battle of Gettysburg in particular. There is external conflict at all levels: between the slave-holding, state's rights-defending South, and the abolitionist, federalist North; between the Southern aristocracy and the North's version of democracy; between commanding officers and their subordinates on both sides. *The Killer Angels* is also rife with internal conflict. Two of the many examples include Longstreet's struggle between loyalty and pragmatism, between his certainty of doom and his duty to his commander and his men; and Chamberlain's conflict between his high ideals and heroic character, on one hand, and the primitive ruthlessness that gives him such fierce joy in battle and enables him to use his own brother to fill a hole in the front line, on the other.

Foreshadowing: hints to a book's upcoming developments, provided in the text itself. For instance, the incident before Pickett's Charge in

which Armistead remembers his dead wife and gives his ring to Pickett (indicating that Armistead has a premonition he won't need it anymore), foreshadow's Armistead's death. Longstreet's terrible foreboding before the final battle is another example, foreshadowing the disastrous outcome for the Confederacy.

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from *The Killer Angels*. Explain each in context. Page numbers pinpoint each entry so that you can re-read the passage in which it appears.

1. "Let me welcome you to 'Lee's Miserables,' The Coldstream Guards? Weren't you fellas over here in the discussion betwixt us in 1812?" (p. 56)
(*Lew Armistead makes friendly overtures to "Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Lyon Fremantle—late of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards, observing for [Queen Victoria]." Longstreet explains to the puzzled Englishman that "Somebody read Victor Hugo, and ever since then we've been Lee's Miserables." When Fremantle fails to make the connection. Longstreet adds that Victor Hugo, a French novelist, published a book in 1862 entitled Les Miserables, which means "the wretched."*)
2. "Another Sharpsburg. And yet, and yet, I cannot call him back; he is already committed." (p. 103)
(*Sharpsburg was the Southern name for the Battle of Antietam, fought north of Harper's Ferry near Hagerstown, Maryland, on September 17, 1862. This decisive battle, the climax of the Confederacy's abortive attempt to invade the North, is noted for its great carnage, in view of the fact that more people were killed or wounded than on any other day of the Civil War. Out of Lee's 40,000 men, 10,000 were either killed, wounded, captured, or missing; of the 46,000 Northern troops, 12,000 were casualties. Lee suspects that Gettysburg will also be a costly battle, but he is too far committed to the confrontation to turn back.*)
3. What could this man know of borders and states' rights and the Constitution and Dred Scott? (p. 171)

(As Chamberlain watches the surgeon examining the terrified runaway slave, he wonders if the recent transplant can understand much about American politics, such as the division of North and South, arguments about the rights of states to determine the legality of slavery, challenges to the Constitution, and furor over a controversial Supreme Court decision regarding slavery. Dred Scott was the slave of John Emerson of St. Louis. He sought his freedom in the Missouri courts based on his residence in the free state of Minnesota after the Missouri Compromise of 1820. In Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857), the U.S. Supreme Court declared (among other things) that no slave or descendant of slaves, whether or not he himself was free, could be a citizen of the United States, and that, furthermore, Congress had no authority to prohibit slavery in federal territories; therefore, Scott, as a non-citizen resident of a federal territory, had no standing to seek legal protection under U.S. law. The decision, meant to resolve controversies around the issue of slavery, instead created the opposite effect: it was widely seen as a move toward expansion of slavery in federal territories south of . The decision provoked widespread outrage in the North while encouraging Southern secessionists; it was one of the inciting factors of the Civil War.)

4. An officer near him said, "General Lee, it's Second Manassas all over again." (p. 110) *(The Second Battle of Bull Run, known in the South as the Second Battle of Manassas, was fought thirty miles west of Washington, D.C., near the village of Manassas, Virginia on August 29-30, 1862. It pitted the crack team of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson against John Pope, who was unequal to the task of eradicating the Confederate presence in Virginia. As with Sharpsburg, both sides sustained heavy losses—the North losing 11,000 and the South 8,500.)*
5. "Where was you boys at Chancellorsville?" (p. 120) *(Tom and Joshua Chamberlain were not a part of the Battle of Chancellorsville on May 1-4, 1863, because they were ill. At Chancellorsville, Lee and Jackson won a great tactical victory against "Fighting Joe" Hooker, whom President Lincoln had appointed to replace the ineffective*

Major General Burnside. The win emboldened Lee to launch a second invasion of the North, but he was unable to duplicate his success, in part because of the heavy losses incurred by the Chancellorsville victory. In addition to losing Jackson—who died of pneumonia after being weakened as a result of an accidental shooting by his own men that resulted in the amputation of his arm—Lee lost 25 percent of his army, or about 13,000 men. The Union's loss of 17,000 was heavy as well, but the North had many more men to begin with.)

6. "You did not know Jackson." "No. It was my great misfortune to arrive after his death. They tell great things of him." (p. 131) *(Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, 1824-1863, is remembered for the team efforts by which he and Robert E. Lee repeatedly out-flanked the Union army. A Virginian like Lee, Jackson was orphaned, impoverished, and largely self-educated; through sheer determination, he achieved an appointment to West Point and graduated 17th in a class that included George Pickett, Henry Hill, and George McClellan. A veteran of successful U.S. Army campaigns in Mexico, Jackson in civilian life became a professor at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. As a Confederate general, his success at the First Battle of Bull Run inspired General Bernard Bee to remark that Jackson stood like a stone wall, a phrase which evolved into his nickname. Jackson succumbed to pneumonia after the amputation of his left arm, and was mourned by North and South alike. Critics of Lee's subsequent battlefield performance note that Southern leadership suffered irreparable harm when the successful team of Lee and Jackson was dissolved.)*
7. "Oh my word," Fremantle went on devoutly, "but he's a tricky one. The Old Gray Fox, as they say. Charming phrase, American to the hilt." (p. 250) *(Fremantle, along with thousands of Confederate soldiers, admires the paradox of Lee's character—the inexplicable blend of humane, courteous deportment with steely courage and determination. Longstreet illuminates Fremantle's musings with stark reality: "Colonel, let me explain something. The secret of General Lee is that men love him and follow*

him with faith in him. That's one secret. The next secret is that General Lee makes a decision and he moves, with guts, and he's been up against a lot of sickly generals who don't know how to make decisions, although some of them have guts but whose men don't love them. That's why we win, mostly. Because we move with speed, and faith. ...")

8. "What were the tactics at Malvern Hill?" (p. 251)
(In order to enlighten Fremantle, Longstreet continues his explanation of Confederate tactics by referring to momentous battles. On July 1, 1862, on the banks of the James River just south of Richmond, McClellan, commander of the Army of the Potomac, failed to take the city after repeated attempts. At the battle of Malvern Hill, sixteen rebel brigades threw themselves into the unenviable task of dislodging the Union battery from a superior position atop the hill. Confederate losses topped 5,500, while Union troops lost only 2,000.)
9. (Goree) drank coffee alone, dreaming. Scheibert, the Prussian, chatted with him about the Battle of Solferino (p. 284)
(To while away idle moments, the European observers discuss tactics with the Confederate military people. In a moment of foreshadowing by Shaara, the choice of subject matter here is an infamous battle from the Second Italian War of Independence. Near the tiny Italian village of Solferino, troops led by Napoleon III defeated Austrian forces on June 24, 1859 in a nine-hour battle that yielded a tactical victory but, as at Gettysburg, resulted in massive losses—in this case, approximately 37,000 killed, wounded, or missing.)
10. [Lee] never again attempts a Napoleonic assault. (p. 349)
(Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) earned fame by leading rapid, bold massed assaults with a highly concentrated strike force. Because of his success with lightning-swift action, Bonaparte advanced to the rank of brigadier general early in 1794 at the age of 25.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is

important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Describe General Lee.

(Dressed in gray, Robert Edward Lee is an imposing figure—five feet ten, red-faced, and white-bearded. He rides with grace on the back of his horse, Traveller, as he takes full command. He is recognized by his soldiers as a saintly man—moral, devout, patriotic, and dedicated to victory. His control is never more obvious than in the aftermath of Gettysburg, when he halts the rout of gray-clad soldiers from the widespread carnage following Longstreet's assault on the center of the Union stronghold. Lee begins the day in prayer, which is his habit. Uncomplaining, he makes no excuses for his shortcomings, but does admit that he is old and tired. He suffers from heart disease and soreness from a recent fall. Even in the worst situations, he remains slightly formal, reserved, courteous, but determined. When he confronts J.E.B Stuart with his faults, Lee contains his anger, states the need for reconnaissance, assumes part of the blame for not making his orders clear, and channels Stuart's chagrin into positive energy.

Through the eyes of Fremantle, the English observer, Lee is a "wonder"—an English gentleman, a member of the Church of England. Even though Lee avoids vice, he tolerates it in others. His lenience works in his behalf, for the men, devoted to their leader, emulate his restraint. His associates are not surprised to hear that Lee is being considered for the presidency.)

2. Explain how Harrison gathers information.

(Harrison, a onetime actor who spies for the Confederacy, makes use of his stage experience and puts on an act for locals. A small man with an unimpressive voice, he relishes the character role of a "simple-minded farmer seeking a runaway wife, terrified of soldiers." Fading into the landscape, an "insignificant man on a pale and muddy horse,"

Harrison returns to camp with worthwhile information. For Lee and Longstreet, Harrison wears the same peasant face. He quotes pertinent information from the newspaper and chortles, "I've played some scenes, ah, General, but I've

been lovely." He acknowledges that people ridicule him for admitting that his wife has run off with a drummer. To his own amazement, "after playing this poor fool farmer for a while, I can't help but feel sorry for him.")

3. Describe the "John Henry" that Kilrain finds. (*"John Henry" is a reference to an American folk hero, along the lines of Paul Bunyan, who has been a traditional symbol of disenfranchised workers. The John Henry of myth was an incredibly strong man and a natural leader; either a slave or a former slave, he led a team of men working on the railroads as "steel-drivers" during the mid-1800s. When the railroad owner bought a steam hammer, John Henry, in an effort to save his men's jobs, offered himself in a contest of man versus machine. He won the contest due to his great strength, speed, and determination, but collapsed and died at the end due to overexertion. Some scholars believe John Henry may have been an actual man or composite of actual men. The highly symbolic story has been retold in numerous folk tales and songs.*

Kilrain's application of the name to the wounded, escaped slave refers to both his skin color and his strength—he has "muscles like black cannonballs"—as well as to his status as a disenfranchised laborer who has been unjustly forced to do back-breaking work to support a lazy, pampered overclass. The man himself is fairly new to the United States, as indicated by his broken English; he has work-worn hands, poorly tended teeth, and ragged clothes, and is clearly frightened, hungry, and in pain. He is extremely grateful for the food and medical treatment he receives. Most tellingly, once he realizes he has received his freedom, he wants most of all to go home.)

4. Explain how Michael Shaara develops the title. (*In his memories of home, Lawrence Chamberlain recalls an exchange with his father. He recited line 37 from Act II, Scene ii of Hamlet: "What a piece of work is man ... in action how like an angel" Chamberlain's father, "an honest man, a noble man," replies with a grin, "Well, boy, if he's an angel, he's sure a murderin' angel." Inspired by his father's observation, Chamberlain went to school and made a*

speech on "Man, the Killer Angel.")

4. When does Chamberlain alter "Killer Angels" to "Killer Animals"? (*When the battle is over, Lawrence Chamberlain and his brother/aide Tom discuss the terrible afternoon. Earlier, Chamberlain's mind was filled with scholarly notions of tragedy and Aristotle's comments on pity and terror. He recalls that, during the assault, "You feel neither pain nor joy nor hatred, only a sense of enormous space and time suspended, the great door open to black eternity, the rising across the terrible field of that last enormous, unanswerable question." Tom struggles with the question of why Confederate soldiers fight so well. Lawrence has little to say, but he actively considers his own role in the bloodshed and is amazed at his savage eagerness for the next battle. As he observes the Confederate dead, he considers, and ultimately rejects, Kilrain's perspective that there is "... no divine spark. Animal meat: the Killer Animals." He finds that, unlike the bitter Kilrain, he cannot hate the "gentlemen." Feeling a fierce pity, he agrees with Tom that they are all equal now in the sight of God.)*

Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. Why does Michael Shaara include a single chapter from Armistead's point of view? (*Even though he is not a major character in the panoply of Gettysburg, Lewis "Lo" Armistead, widower and genial West Pointer with a "fighter's spirit," appears frequently throughout the drift of conversation where soldiers are gathered, and Shaara places a heavy burden on him in the unfolding of the final cataclysm, for it is Armistead who sets the scene for Pickett's Charge and is the timekeeper of the battle's worst fighting, Armistead who most embodies the war's central tragedy of brothers fighting brothers, Armistead who anticipates and describes the final descent into death.*

Caught in mid-thought as the volleys begin, he looks at his watch. It is 1:07. For the next 28 minutes, he observes a montage of memorable details—Longstreet sitting on a fence rail, Garnett deliberately making himself a target in hopes of achieving an honorable death, Pickett's joyful face as he enters the fray, knee-

high grass over the open field leading to the stone wall held by soldiers in blue. Incredibly, in the cacophony of battle, a band is playing.

Before the battle engages, Armistead has been thinking of his dead wife; in a premonition of his own death, he entrusts his ring to Pickett to give as a gift to the fiancée to whom Pickett is writing a pre-battle letter. Armistead feels himself to be “in the grip of these great forces, powerless, sliding down the long afternoon toward the end, as if it was all arranged somewhere.” Like Lee, Armistead is a deeply religious man, and like Lee, he commits his future to God’s hands, although fatalistically and not without regret—his last dying wish is to have been able to see the best friend whom the war has turned into his sworn enemy, the Union General Winfield Hancock, one more time. His final words are, “Will you tell him . . . how very sorry I am.” Finally, Armistead narrates the final journey taken by many men at Gettysburg: the “long slow falling” into death.)

7. How does Lawrence Chamberlain break down the will of the mutineers?

(After 120 sulky, tattered mutineers are turned over to Colonel Chamberlain, he reveals his humanistic background through empathy: “How do you force a man to fight—for freedom? The idiocy of it jarred him.” Instead, he wins them over with a simple strategy. With calculated discourtesy, he rejects the obscene, self-important Captain Brewer, who has charge of the ragged, dusty line. Then he rebuilds their self-esteem by dismissing the guards, offering them a fresh-cooked meal, and listening to their grievances.

Chamberlain shakes hands with the mutineers’ spokesman, Joseph Bucklin, and welcomes him to the regiment. Over coffee, he hears the man’s story—eleven engagements, hunger, wounds, torn clothes, frustration with poor leadership, and disenchantment with the war as a whole. Chamberlain limits his comments to “I see” and “I get your point.”

Facing the line of dissidents, Chamberlain speaks from the heart words that characterize his philosophy of human dignity. He explains that he has no intention of shooting them,

despite his orders—he won’t shoot “Maine men.” He notes that he has no time to redress grievances, since the Twentieth Maine has been ordered to Pennsylvania. He gives honest account of the Twentieth Maine’s numbers—300 out of the original 1,000—but appeals to the prisoners’ decency by reminding them that they are fighting “to set other men free.” He gives the mutineers a moment to mull over his informal talk. Out of 120, 114 choose to march with the regiment—a moral victory for Chamberlain and a testament to his skill as a leader.)

8. What attitude do Pickett and Stuart share?

(As Armistead notes, Pickett and Stuart share a boyish love of warfare, “God’s greatest game.” The dandyish, thirty-eight-year-old George Pickett, “lovable, long-haired, perfumed,” makes up with enthusiasm what he lacks in intellectual depth. He is insulted to be placed at the rear of the line of march, and fears that he and his men will be left out of the battle. When he realizes the importance of his position in the last assault, he exults, “Oh God, Lo, isn’t it something? Isn’t it marvelous? How does a man find words?”

J.E.B. “Jeb” Stuart, eight years Pickett’s junior, differs from Pickett in his superior cleverness and the comparative freedom of action with which he is afforded. As Lee’s “eyes,” he rides “rings around the Union Army,” gathering intelligence on enemy troop movements. However, like Pickett, he is overly conscious of his image—in Stuart’s case, he likes to read about himself in the newspapers. And, like Pickett, he is characterized by youthful high spirits, which Lee is careful to maintain “on rein, but on a loose rein.” Lee even refuses to court-martial Stuart for his disastrous failure to provide adequate intelligence before Gettysburg.

Shaara says little about Stuart after the battle, but he uses Pickett’s disillusionment to literary effect; when Lee orders him to pull together his Division for the retreat after the disastrous charge on the third day, an angry, weeping Pickett tells him, “General Lee, I have no Division.” And the Afterword, based on historical accounts, makes it clear that Pickett never forgave Lee for the loss of his men at Gettysburg.)

Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. What techniques allow Michael Shaara to penetrate the minds of historical figures?
(Michael Shaara resorts to a technique from drama to open and close his novelized version of the Battle of Gettysburg. In keeping with his stated desire to do military study on the lines of Shakespeare's Henry V, he introduces the players in their roles and sets the stage before the main action. Then he enters the consciousness of a variety of "eyes"—the spy, Lee, Fremantle, Longstreet, Chamberlain, Buford, and Armistead. The alternation between North and South keeps the reader informed of reactions and perspectives on both sides of the conflict. By the end of the engagement, Shaara has built sympathy and respect for both armies and their leaders.)

Another aspect of Shaara's art is the revelation of characters' private struggles, thoughts, and past histories, and how these things affect current choices. Lee, weakened and hampered by the recently discovered weakness in his heart, is unable to shake his sorrow at his son Rooney's wound and the loss of Stonewall Jackson, his good friend and military alter-ego. Longstreet, a man whose silent, dour exterior hides tactical genius, foresight, and deep sorrow over the deaths of his children, accurately foresees the disaster to come and struggles to do his duty despite his sense of doom, even as he futilely tries to persuade the unbending Lee to change course. Armistead, deeply emotional under his quiet exterior, and harboring a premonition of his own death, misses his wife and struggles with regret that the war has divided him from his good friend, Hancock. Buford, the crack cavalryman, more than does his duty despite his private disillusion at the way the war has been waged to this point. Chamberlain, the most intellectual and philosophical of all the characters, filters his musings on human nature, slavery, the battlefield experience, and the meaning of the war through his scholarly background. Fittingly, it is Chamberlain who sums up the aftermath.)

10. Of what use is fiction in the assessment of history?
(The difference between history and historical fiction lies in characterization. Whereas most

*people cannot envision the reality of the Civil War, most readers or moviegoers quickly internalize the fear and determination of Scarlett O'Hara in Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. Likewise, the sufferings of Eliza, runaway slave in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, provoke the reader's sympathies more than lengthy encyclopedic descriptions of vast numbers of slaves and extensive accounts of deprivation and misery. The fiction writer has a freedom that the historian lacks—to focus a probing eye on the sense impressions of characters who live the situation. As opposed to an actual count of maimed casualties, the pangs, fears, and frustrations of a single fictional victim are clearer in the mind's eye and easier to sympathize with. The same principle affects human response to current events: to see numbers of innocent people afflicted, enslaved, harassed, or degraded is unpleasant; to know one victim by name is intolerable.)*

Question 11 Creative Level

11. Create a two-column list of sentences from history and fiction as it deals with a single aspect of the American Civil War. Select a line from an encyclopedia or history book (being sure to cite your source) and balance it with a fictional view from a novel, poem, or play. Discuss with your classmates the difference in focus and the importance of sense impressions—how something feels, tastes, smells, sounds, or looks. Then note the amount of fact and analysis that history brings to the event. Decide which approach has more meaning for you and why.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Draw a mural featuring the Army of the Potomac and Confederate forces encamped on the outskirts of Gettysburg. Include details mentioned in the novel, such as the peach orchard, Little Round Top, and the makeshift stone wall. Research realistic details, such as the size and shape of tents, placement of hospital tents, supply wagons, food preparation, and headquarters. Show uniformed soldiers in natural poses—conversing, relaxing, playing cards, grooming horses, digging ditches, and preparing for battle.

2. Listen to recordings of favorite melodies from the Civil War era (particularly the works of Stephen Collins Foster)—ballads, patriotic hymns, nonsense ditties, marching songs, and specific titles mentioned in the novel, such as “Kathleen Mavourneen,” “The Campbells Are Coming,” “Mary Argyle,” and “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Contrast the themes of these songs with those of other war eras, such as the American Revolution, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and Vietnam.
3. Make a model of some piece of artillery, such as a Napoleon cannon, an Enfield or Springfield rifle, or a parrot cannon. Compare these antiques with current weaponry. Make charts illustrating fire power, weight, and maneuverability.
4. Write a report on the photographic career of Mathew Brady. Display his work to the class, particularly his portraits of Lincoln and Civil War battlefields. Discuss public reaction to his pictures of wartime carnage.
5. Write a report on the events in Robert E. Lee’s life following Gettysburg. Lee himself took full responsibility for the defeat at Gettysburg. Did his contemporaries agree, and if not, why not? Explain the reaction of politicians, journalists, and critics after each one of his major engagements and after the surrender. Also, what did he do for a living when he returned to civilian life, and what happened to Traveler?
6. Make a list of the leaders on both sides of the war. Explain what they did before the conflict and how they adapted to civilian life after the war. Include information about those who survived Andersonville Prison.
7. Read other literary works about Civil War battles, as well as contemporary battle accounts. Compare the poems of Walt Whitman and Stephen Vincent Benet, as well as Stephen Crane’s novel *The Red Badge of Courage*, with Michael Shaara’s version of Civil War fighting. Was Shaara exaggerating for the sake of entertainment? Alternatively, did he understate the situation? Or was he accurate in his depictions?
8. Locate military terms in context. Make oral reports explaining the meaning and purpose of each, such as brigade, division, column, patrol, regiment, en echelon, brevet, and corps. Draw a chart explaining the relative rank of the major characters.
9. Compose a letter home to a wife, parent, child, or friend. Give your assessment of the situation the night before the last battle at Gettysburg. Explain which leaders and friends have already died, and discuss your own fears of death or loss of limb.
10. Explain how you would lead a tour over the present terrain of Gettysburg in order to emphasize the physical hindrances both sides encountered. What would you write on a marker that would commemorate the losses of both sides?
11. Read the history of Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address,” and report on contemporary public reaction to his short speech. One of the most famous speeches in American history, Lincoln’s comments on the dedication of the Gettysburg battlefield are now regarded as a small literary masterpiece. Did most contemporary observers agree? Were there dissenting opinions? Paraphrase the speech in modern English—for example, explaining how long “four score and seven years” is.
12. Draw a map which encompasses the entire Civil War. Place markers at the sites of major struggles and eventful decisions, such as the firing on Fort Sumter, Lee’s surrender, Lincoln’s assassination, Sherman’s march, and Jefferson Davis’s headquarters. Mark each site with specific dates.

Vocabulary Test

Part A

Match the following military terms with their definitions. Write your answers in the blanks.

vedette, colors, caisson, brigade, bivouac, picket, dragoon, battery, volley, reconnoiter, parley, conscript, impress, deploy, guidon

- _____ 1. a temporary encampment or shelter
- _____ 2. a horse-drawn ammunition chest on wheels
- _____ 3. a simultaneous exchange of gunfire
- _____ 4. a small military flag
- _____ 5. to be forcibly enlisted into service, especially the navy
- _____ 6. to place in battle formation
- _____ 7. a sentinel who guards against surprise attack
- _____ 8. a mounted sentinel stationed beyond pickets
- _____ 9. a draftee
- _____ 10. a conference with the enemy

Part B

Underline an answer to complete each statement.

- American soldiers used (Napoleon, Enfield, Springfield, Scott) rifles imported from England.
- Artillery pieces were grouped into a single (corps, battery, brigade, column) for tactical purposes.
- Without proper discipline, an unsuccessful engagement could deteriorate into a (feu d'enfer, secession, rout, skirmish).
- Northern troops were unnerved by (rebel yells, taps, Dan Butterfield, signal teams).
- Temporary stone walls or (flanks, breastworks, disengages, ponts au feu) gave some protection to Chamberlain's men.
- Lee preferred the (hollow square, en echelon, parrot, Casey) method of assault over other suggested methods.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

Supply a word to complete each of the following statements, choosing your answers from the following list. Place the answers in the blanks at left.

artillery, bayonet, bivouac, cannon, Division, Enfields, general, hair, infantry, military science, oath, picket, prayer, President, Queen, rhetoric, religion, Round Top, shelter, spy, stone wall

- _____ 1. Pickett rode into the firelight, bronze-curved and lovely _____ down to his shoulders, regal and gorgeous on a stately mount.
- _____ 2. Chamberlain ... had been a professor of _____ at Bowdoin College.
- _____ 3. In the night they had built a _____, had set out pickets, had taken prisoners.
- _____ 4. Nothing quite so much like God on earth as a _____ on a battlefield.
- _____ 5. Rice says you're a schoolteacher. ... Tells me you ordered a _____ charge, drove those people halfway to Richmond.
- _____ 6. Colonel, it keeps raining, these damn _____ gonna clog on us. Whyn't we trade 'em for Springfields first chance we get?
- _____ 7. His name was Fremantle—Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Lyon Fremantle, late of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards, observing for the _____.
- _____ 8. So finding the headquarters was not the problem. The problem was riding through a _____ line in the dark.
- _____ 9. (Lee) said good morning to the beautiful gray horse, the great soft eyes, said a silent _____.
- _____ 10. Pickett said tearfully, voice of a bewildered angry boy, "General Lee, I have no _____.

Part II (pp. 16-69) Matching (30 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the lettered list. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| A. Chamberlain | F. Hood | K. Meade |
| B. Early | G. Jackson | L. Pender |
| C. Fremantle | H. Lee | M. Pickett |
| D. Harrison | I. Lincoln | N. Reynolds |
| E. Hill | J. Longstreet | O. Stuart |

- _____ 1. Does not drink, smoke, gamble, chase women, read novels or plays, or own slaves.
- _____ 2. Last in his class at West Point; exuberant; considers Abraham Lincoln a personal friend.
- _____ 3. A stubborn man who replaces Stonewall Jackson. Three of his children died of a fever within a week.
- _____ 4. A former commander of West Point. Courteous, marvelous horseman, gentleman. Declines command of the Army of the Potomac.
- _____ 5. Speaks seven languages, believes in the brotherhood of man. His brother Thomas is his aide.
- _____ 6. Plays the banjo. Leads cavalry on forays on the Union Army. Egotistical. Fails to inform Lee of Union troop movements.
- _____ 7. In poor health. Moody and bad-tempered. Wears a red shirt into battle. Does not like to follow orders.

- _____ 8. Asks to be relieved of command. Asks Congress for pardon, which is never given. One of the most beloved generals in American history.
- _____ 9. Returns to England and writes a book about the Civil War which predicts a Southern victory.
- _____ 10. Is elected governor of Maine and president of Bowdoin College. Receives a medal of honor from France.
- _____ 11. Pretends to seek a runaway wife. May have returned to the stage after the war.
- _____ 12. Writes an order for the whole army to withdraw. Is the only member who wants to pull out.
- _____ 13. Eccentric general who loved to eat lemons. Knew how to hate. Ordered pikes and spears for his men.
- _____ 14. Left West Point to become a prosecuting attorney. Cold, bitter, competent, he is fired because of citizen complaints against him.
- _____ 15. Disagrees with Lee on the subject of massed assault. Is disliked for blaming Lee for the fiasco at Gettysburg.

Part III (pp. 70-105): True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Before the battle, Lee knows that the Confederate army will be outnumbered.
- _____ 2. Chamberlain is ordered to shoot the mutineers if they refuse to fight, but he admits to them that he will not.
- _____ 3. The black man is unable to make himself understood because he doesn't speak English
- _____ 4. Southern soldiers do impossible things for Lee because they love him.
- _____ 5. Ironically, the most crucial stage of the Battle of Gettysburg takes place on Saturday, July 4, 1863, Independence Day.
- _____ 6. Too many peaches cause the Old Soldier's illness—diarrhea.
- _____ 7. The success of the Union army depends in part on John Reynolds's ability to hold the line against Pickett's charge.
- _____ 8. Despite pressure to court-martial Stuart, Lee maintains good relations with him.
- _____ 9. The Battle of Gettysburg is part of Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North to bring the Union army out in the open.
- _____ 10. In contrast to the unity of the Army of the Potomac, the Confederate army is composed of vastly dissimilar men, some of whom speak foreign languages.

Part IV (pp. 106-187): Essay Questions (40 points)

- 1. Describe in detail a Civil War soldier whose actions illustrate courage, determination, and a proper military attitude.
- 2. Describe in detail a Civil War soldier whose actions illustrate egotism, foolhardiness, or ignorance of proper military behavior.
- 3. Describe the terrain over which the battle is fought, emphasizing differences in altitude, natural hazards, open land, and enclaves of civilian population.
- 4. Suggest alternate methods by which General Lee could have met General Meade in combat with less risk of loss of life and honor.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following quotations with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| A. Bucklin | F. Hood | K. Meade |
| B. Chamberlain | G. Jackson | L. Pender |
| C. Fremantle | H. Lee | M. Pickett |
| D. Harrison | L. Lincoln | N. Reynolds |
| E. Hill | J. Longstreet | O. Stuart |

- _____ 1. Scout, sir I am a scout. And I am a patriot. sir.
- _____ 2. Keep at it, John. Someday, if you're spared, you may make a soldier. ... (L)et's go surprise Harry Heth.
- _____ 3. Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my fingers to fight and my hands to war. Amen.
- _____ 4. I found rather a large tree and Lawley and I sat out in the open and there was quite a show. Lovely, oh lovely.
- _____ 5. Do you expect me to attack again that same high ground which they could not take yesterday at full strength? With so many officers lost? Including Sam Hood?
- _____ 6. I'll tell you a secret: I'm an old man.
- _____ 7. I've been told that if you don't come I can shoot you. Well, you know I won't do that. Not Maine men.
- _____ 8. I been in eleven different engagements, Colonel. How many you been in?
- _____ 9. All my colonels are gone. General, everyone. Most of my men are gone. Good God, sir, what about my men?
- _____ 10. You were my eyes. Your mission was to screen this army from the enemy cavalry and to report any movement by the enemy's main body. That mission was not fulfilled.
- _____ 11. (A)nd now, General, do you know where I'm placed in line of march? Last, sir, that's where. Exactly last. I bring up the damned rear. Beg pardon.
- _____ 12. I don't want them brave, I want them dead.
- _____ 13. You didn't even know they was on the move, did ye? I thought not. You wouldn't be spread out so thin if you knowed they was comin'.
- _____ 14. You are as good a cavalry officer as I have known, and your service to this army has been invaluable. I have learned to rely on your information; all your reports are always accurate.
- _____ 15. What has been done to the black is a terrible thing. ... If they win there'll be two countries, like France and Germany in Europe, and the border will be armed. Then there'll be a third country in the West, and that one will be the balance of power.

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase in answer to each of the following questions. Place your response in the blank provided at left.

- _____ 1. Whom does Lee stop from taking revenge against critics because there is no time for revenge?
- _____ 2. What lies atop the flat hill beyond Gettysburg?
- _____ 3. Who is known as the Old Gray Fox?
- _____ 4. Which Union general do the soldiers prefer as commander of the Army of the Potomac?
- _____ 5. To what position is Chamberlain assigned for the final assault?
- _____ 6. Which officer is killed on the first day while riding his horse and waving his hat?
- _____ 7. Which side, Confederate or Union, arrives at Gettysburg with 70,000 men?

- _____ 8. Which officer was suspended for hitting Jubal Early in the head with a plate?
- _____ 9. Who takes command of the Army of the Potomac on June 18, 1863?
- _____ 10. What famous bugle call does Dan Butterfield invent?

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

Supply a word or phrase from the list below to complete each of the following statements.

angel, animal, Cause, center. Constitution, flank, Fourth of July. God's. invasion, Lee's. Lincoln. New Englanders. Rebel yell, Rebels. river, secession. slavery, valley. Virginia. Washington

- _____ 1. So the weak point was the _____ .
- _____ 2. It is all in _____ hands.
- _____ 3. What could this man know of borders and states' rights and the _____ and Dred Scott?
- _____ 4. We can withdraw under cover of the weather. If we can reach the _____ there will be no more danger.
- _____ 5. What a piece of work is man ... in action how like an _____.
- _____ 6. You ain't exactly on friendly ground no more, Major. This ain't _____ no more.
- _____ 7. The scream of a flood of charging men: the _____.
- _____ 8. He said the problem was _____ . Now what do you think of that?
- _____ 9. He remembered the night in Arlington when the news came: _____.
- _____ 10. Well, nobody ever said they wasn't good soldiers Well. they're _____ Americans anyway, even if they are _____.

Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe the state of affairs in the Civil War at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg.
2. Explain how the outcome of the battle affects the lives of any three main characters.
3. Describe how battle strategy is planned and carried out on both sides.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

Part A:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. bivouac | 6. deploy |
| 2. caisson | 7. picket |
| 3. volley | 8. vedette |
| 4. guidon | 9. conscript |
| 5. impress | 10. parley |

Part B:

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| 1. Enfield | 4. rebel yells |
| 2. battery | 5. breastworks |
| 3. rout | 6. en echelon |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Quotation Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. hair | 6. Enfields |
| 2. rhetoric | 7. Queen |
| 3. stone wall | 8. picket |
| 4. general | 9. prayer |
| 5. bayonet | 10. Division |

Part II: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. O | 11. D |
| 2. M | 7. E | 12. K |
| 3. J | 8. A | 13. G |
| 4. N | 9. C | 14. B |
| 5. A | 10. A | 15. J |

Part III: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. H | 11. M |
| 2. N | 7. B | 12. G |
| 3. H | 8. A | 13. D |
| 4. C | 9. M | 14. H |
| 5. J | 10. H | 15. B |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

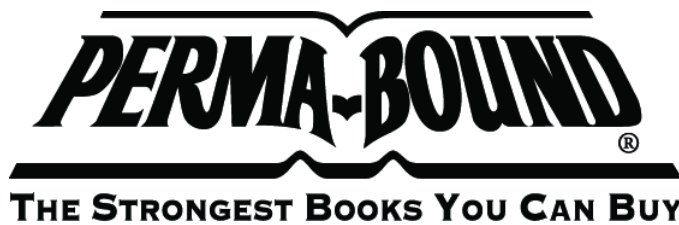
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Stuart | 6. Reynolds |
| 2. cemetery | 7. Confederate |
| 3. Lee | 8. Armistead |
| 4. McClellan | 9. Meade |
| 5. center | 10. taps |

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. center | 6. Virginia |
| 2. God's | 7. Rebel yell |
| 3. Constitution | 8. slavery |
| 4. river | 9. secession |
| 5. angel | 10. Rebels |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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