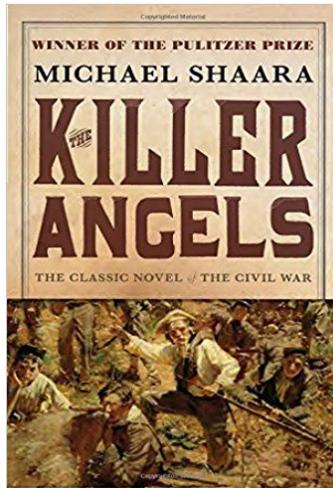


The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara



Use these questions to focus your reading. Answer all of the questions on a separate sheet of paper or in a Google Doc. These questions are due the first day of school and will count as part of a quiz grade.

Foreword

The Foreword introduces the reader to the general nature of the two armies that will face each other at Gettysburg in July of 1863. It also provides brief biographical sketches of the men who will be the major characters in this book. The story deals with conflict, not only between the armies, but also between officers and sometimes within individuals as well.

1. What does Shaara mean when he says that the Southern Army is fighting for “disunion”?
2. Give a brief description of each of the following (refer back to this later in the story)

The Confederate (Rebel) Army

- a. Robert Edward Lee
- b. James Longstreet
- c. George Pickett
- d. Robert Ewell
- e. Ambrose Powell Hill
- f. Lewis Armistead
- g. Richard Brooke Garnett
- h. E.B Stuart
- i. Jubal Early

The Union Army

- j. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain
- k. John Buford
- l. John Reynolds
- m. George Gordon Meade
- n. Winfield Scott Hancock

Monday, June 29, 1863

Chapter 1: The Spy

1. The story opens with a rebel spy looking into a valley. What does he see?
2. There are several lines from Shakespeare that the spy thinks about while riding toward the line. Why does he think those particular lines? (You may have to look into who said the lines and why.)
3. What does Longstreet learn from the spy? Why is it important information?

Chapter 2: Chamberlain

1. Why are the mutineers sent to Colonel Chamberlain?
2. What does Chamberlain say to the mutineers? What do they decide afterward?

Chapter 3: Buford

1. When the Union cavalry commander, John Buford, arrives at the cemetery on the hill near Gettysburg, what does he see?
2. In the cemetery, Buford sees a white angel with its arms uplifted in a strange sadness. How does this relate to the title of the book?
3. Is Buford confident that the Union infantry will get there in time? Why or why not?

Chapter 4: Longstreet

1. What two things does Longstreet think about as he watches the poker game?
1. What does Longstreet say to Lewis Armistead about the new kind of war?
2. Fremantle is asked why England will not help the South. What do the English think the war is about, and what do the Confederates think?

Wednesday, July 1, 1864: The First Day

Chapter 1: Lee

1. Taylor tells Lee that a old man is objecting to their taking his blind horse. What is Lee's response? Do you think it a wise choice? Why?
2. Why does Lee tell Longstreet to stay back from the main line in the battle to come?
3. How do Lee and Longstreet differ on what to do about the Union troops in Gettysburg?

Chapter 2: Buford

1. Why is Buford so extremely happy to see Reynolds?
2. Reynolds says to Buford, "Someday, if you're spared, you may make a soldier." Buford realizes that this is Reynold's greatest compliment. Why?
3. Reynolds is in command of the Union troops at Gettysburg when the battle begins. What happens to him?

Chapter 3: Lee

1. Why does Lee begin to work on a plan for withdrawal?
2. What does General Heth say in his report to Lee?
3. How does it happen that Lee decides to commit all his forces to the battle?
4. Lee is delighted to see Longstreet. What does Longstreet want to do? What is Lee's final decision?

Chapter 4: Chamberlain

1. Chamberlain remembers growing up with his father in Maine. What did his father say about angels? Relate this to the title of the book.
2. At the end of the day, Chamberlain's men have marched for twenty miles and are ready for some sleep. What happens?

Chapter 5: Longstreet

1. What does Fremantle mean when he calls Lee a true gentleman?
2. What does Longstreet mean when he says, "Honor could lose the war"?

Chapter 6: Lee

1. Why does Lee think Ewell did not try to take the hill on the first day of the battle?
2. Later that same night, Lee sends for Ewell to come without Early. What do we learn about Lee's leadership from this meeting?

Chapter 7: Buford

1. Compare the scene at the Union headquarters with that at the Confederate headquarters.
2. Summarize the military events of the first day of the battle. *Remember the past 7 chapters all discuss the events of day 1.*

Thursday, July 2, 1863: The Second Day

Chapter 1: Freemantle

1. When Freemantle looks at the position of the Union troops, what is the setting for the battle to come?
2. As Freemantle waits for the battle to begin, what does he decide is the basic cause of the war?

Chapter 2: Chamberlain

1. Why is Chamberlain surprised at his reaction to the wounded black slave?
2. Why does Kilrain believe the war is important?

Chapter 3: Longstreet

1. Why is Captain Johnson nervous about leading Longstreet's men into position to fight?
2. What happens during Longstreet's march which complicates the situation?
3. When General Hood wants to take his men around to the right of the Union forces, what is Longstreet's response?

Chapter 4: Chamberlain

1. Why is the position of Chamberlain's regiment important?
2. What happens when Chamberlain asks his brother Tom to fill a hole in the line where two Maine soldiers have just been killed? Why is he torn about the decision?
3. What order does Chamberlain give when his men run out of ammunition, and what is the result?

Chapter 5: Longstreet

1. What does Longstreet reply when asked if Jeb Stuart should be court-martialed? Why?
2. What does Longstreet have to say to Freemantle about Lee's methods of waging war?
3. How do Pickett and Garnett exemplify the Southern spirit of chivalry?

Chapter 6: Lee

1. How does Lee feel about Virginia's secession?
2. What does Lee decide to do with his army on the next day, the third day of the battle?
3. Summarize the military events of the second day of the battle. *Remember the past 6 chapters all discuss the events of day 2.*

Friday, July 3, 1863

Chapter 1: Chamberlain

1. What does Tom say about the bayonet charge?
2. What new orders does Chamberlain receive and how does he feel about them?

Chapter 2: Longstreet

1. How is the morale of the Southern troops before the third day's battle?
2. What does Lee order Longstreet to do? What is Longstreet's response to Lee's order?
3. Longstreet realizes that the one thing he can do now is resign and refuse to lead the charge. Why doesn't he?

Chapter 3: Chamberlain

1. Describe Chamberlain on the morning of the third day.
2. What memory of the previous day helps Chamberlain see the larger picture?

Chapter 4: Armistead

1. Why does Armistead ask Pickett to tell Garnett not to participate in the attack?
2. What happens when Armistead and his remaining men finally make it over the stonewall at the top of the ridge? Describe the scene.

Chapter 5: Longstreet

1. When Pickett's aide rides up to ask for help, what is Longstreet's response?
2. What is Pickett's response when Lee orders him to re-group his men?
3. Describe the scene where Lee and Longstreet confer at the end of the day.

Chapter 6: Chamberlain

1. Why does Chamberlain believe there is great beauty in tragedy?
2. Summarize the military events of the third day of the battle. *Remember the past 6 chapters all discuss the events of day 3.*
3. What impact did the lack of communication have on the outcome of the battle?

Afterword

1. Describe what happens to each of the below characters once the war is over:
 - a. Robert E. Lee
 - b. James Longstreet
 - c. Richard Ewell
 - d. A.P Hill
 - e. John Hood
 - f. Dorsey Pender
 - g. Isaac Trimble
 - h. Johnston Pettigrew
 - i. George Pickett
 - j. Jubal Early
 - k. Arthur Fremantle
 - l. Harrison
 - m. Jon Buford
 - n. Winfield Scott Hancock
 - o. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

Killer Angels Glossary

Below are terms that may help aid your understanding of the story. You do not need to do anything with this list. It is simply meant for reference to assist you in your reading.

Chapter 1: The Spy Vocabulary

fatigue – extreme tiredness

inarticulate – not able to communicate effectively

lickety-split – in a great hurry

phantomlike – like a ghost

warily – cautiously

Chapter 2: Chamberlain Vocabulary

adjutant – an assistant, a representative from a higher-ranking officer

color bearers – flag carriers

courier – messenger

grievances – complaints

insolently – disrespectfully

johnnies – another name for Rebels

mutineers – men who refuse to follow orders

Chapter 3: Buford Vocabulary

cupola – a small tower on the top of a building

deployed – moved from marching formation to fighting formation

repeating rifles – rifles that can be fired several times before reloading

seminary – a school for training ministers

Chapter 4: Longstreet Vocabulary

grimaced – made a face indicating distaste or disgust

handlebar moustache – a long moustache that looks like a bicycle's handlebars

inside straight – a poker hand that is very hard to get

lee's Miserables – a play on Victor Hugo's Les Miserables (The Miserable Ones), a famous French novel

Wednesday, July 1, 1864: the First Day

Chapter 1: Lee Vocabulary

British square – a military formation the British used to defeat

Napoleon Conscripted – drafted, forced to enter the army

Court-martial – a military trial for failure to perform one's duty

Quixotic – strange or odd behavior in a noble but hopeless cause

Chapter 2: Buford Vocabulary

repulsed – turned back, drove away

squad – a small group of soldiers, normally about ten

unbodied – ghost-like, not of human origin

Chapter 3: Lee Vocabulary

disengage – stop the battle by moving away from the enemy

docile – quiet, meek, and not going to cause trouble

enveloped – having the enemy attacking on both flanks

galling – irritating, annoying

incoherent – not logical or not understandable

indisposition – the state of not feeling well, unable to function effectively

Chapter 4: Chamberlain Vocabulary

apprehensive – afraid of what might happen

hostile – angry, like an enemy

immune – automatically resistant to

instinctive – done automatically without thinking

intrigue – a secret plan or plot

oration – a formal speech

requisitioned – demanded without offering payment

Chapter 5: Longstreet Vocabulary

backwoodsmen – term used for pioneers or hunters who lived on the edges of the frontier

disreputable – having a bad reputation, not behaving or dressing properly

moralist – one who bases judgments on ideas of right or wrong rather than being practical

“Strordinary dignity” – dialect for “extraordinary dignity”

Chapter 6: Lee Vocabulary

aide – assistant, especially in the military

disdain – looking on with distaste

implements of war – all the equipment a soldier needs to fight a battle including weapons

notorious – well known for all the wrong reasons wavery

exuberance – enthusiastic but insecure behavior

Thursday, July 2, 1863: The Second Day

Chapter 1: Freemantle Vocabulary

aristocracy – those who are automatically considered to be in the highest social class

breastworks – hastily built defensive works soldiers build on the battlefield

laconically – with as few words as possible

premonition – a spooky feeling something is about to happen

Chapter 2: Chamberlain Vocabulary

chivalry – a code of honor among soldiers that includes keeping one's word, treating one's opponents respectfully, and behaving courageously.

provost guards – soldiers who are assigned duties as military policemen

right shoulder arms – a command that tells the soldier to place his rifle on his right shoulder to begin a march

Chapter 3: Longstreet Vocabulary

en echelon – the attacking force lines up diagonally to the main line of the enemy and then attack in staggered order down the line so that the battle steadily moves from left to right or from right to left

enfilade fire – firing at the end of an enemy battle line rather than the front

reconnoiter – to scout ahead to find enemy positions

Skirmishers – a thin line of soldiers placed in front of the main battle line to warn of the approach of the enemy

Chapter 4: Chamberlain Vocabulary

bulbous – unusually round and protruding

elation – great joy

enfiladed – fired at from both flanks

salient – any part of a battle line that projects out from the main line

Chapter 5: Longstreet Vocabulary

devious – sneaky

languid – slow and lazy

mulish – stubborn

stratagems – plans

Chapter 6: Lee Vocabulary

cotillion – a formal dance

extricate – to remove from a difficult or dangerous situation

reinforced – to get extra troops or resources

rout – a serious defeat where the enemy runs away

secession – voting to leave a group one had formerly joined

Friday, July 3, 1863

Chapter 1: Chamberlain Vocabulary

detail – any group of soldiers assigned to a specific job like getting water or picking up trash

diversion – a tactic that distracts the enemy from what is actually going to happen

exultation – extreme joy

relieved – in military terminology, when a soldier or a military unit is replaced by another one

typhoid – a deadly fever common in Civil War encampments

Chapter 2: Longstreet Vocabulary

frontal assault – attacking an enemy head on

immobile – unable to move

morale – spirit, enthusiasm, attitude

terrain – the shape of the ground

Chapter 4: Armistead Vocabulary

cannonade – a prolonged artillery bombardment

double-time – to march at double the normal speed, the equivalent of a slow jog left

oblique – to move to the left at an angle instead of going straight ahead