

Providence Christian School of Texas
Class Eight Reading Summer 2021

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

In preparation for Class Eight English, read *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok. As you read, make observations about the major characters on the attached sheet. Look for quotes that indicate strong feelings, show differences of opinion, reveal character qualities, or arouse your curiosity. Include the page number for each quote and note what it reveals and/or your reaction to it. Make a minimum of twelve (12) entries. Your first writing assignment and the initial class discussion will be based on this novel; use the chart to prepare yourself to offer your insights and reflections to the discussion and your writing. You will reap benefits if you focus your observations on a few specific questions. Does the book present silence positively or negatively? Does Reuven overcome his hatred? Is Reuven a loyal friend?

Please purchase the following edition, and bring it and your "Quotes and Notes" page(s) to school on the first day of class:

Potok, Chaim. *The Chosen*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2003.
ISBN: 978-0-4499-1154-9

For the second summer assignment, you have a choice: *1776* by David McCullough **or** *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. Students who read *1776* will receive 50 bonus quiz points, as it is a more difficult book.

1776 by David McCullough

1776 is not a fictional novel and therefore, requires a different type of reading. Do not become bogged down in the details; instead, try to keep the big picture in mind. Use the attached reading guide to keep track of the major characters and events.

For the **battles**, look for quotes that reveal the expectations of the soldiers and generals as they prepared for each battle (Did they expect to win? Were the odds in their favor?). In addition, note the hardships and struggles faced by the colonists and soldiers as they fought for independence. At the conclusion of each major section of the book, write a *brief* summary of the major battle, making note of which side won and a couple of important factors in the loss or victory. It is not necessary to write in complete sentences.

For the **people**, jot down two quotes that strike you about each individual. It may be something the person says or a description the author gives. In the notes column, record significant actions or decisions. The last three names on the list are British generals. For these, make note of which battles they were involved in and significant decisions they made. For all specific observations, include **page numbers** on your chart.

If you choose this option, please read the following edition or another unabridged version, and bring it and your "Quotes and Notes" page(s) to school on the first day of class:

McCullough, David. *1776*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2006.
ISBN: 978-0-7432-2672-1

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

This novel is a fictional account of the Battle of Gettysburg, but the generals and soldiers named were real people, and the events are based on historical accounts of the battle. Although we will not be studying the Civil War until midway through the academic year, we will be visiting the Gettysburg Battlefield on our Washington, D.C. trip. You will reap the benefits of reading this novel later in the year.

Before starting the novel, read the opening Forward to understand the context for the battle. Each chapter shifts to a different general's perspective, so it will be important to keep track of which army's point of view the characters have in a given section. As you read, make at least three observations about each of the following characters: Longstreet, Lee, Chamberlain, and Buford. Look for quotes that indicate strong feelings, show differences of opinion, reveal character qualities, or arouse your curiosity. Include the page number for each quote and make note of what it reveals and/or your reaction to it.

If you choose this option, please read the following edition or another unabridged version, and bring it and your "Quotes and Notes" page(s) to school on the first day of class:

Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*. New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2003.
ISBN: 978-0345407276

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1776

<u>People</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Quotes</u>	<u>Notes</u>
George Washington			
Nathanael Greene Jr.			
Henry Knox			
Joseph Reed			
Charles Lee			
<i>General William Howe</i>			
<i>General Henry Clinton</i>			
<i>General Charles Cornwallis</i>			

1776

<u>Battles</u>	<u>Expectations</u>	<u>Hardships</u>	<u>Brief Summary</u>
Boston	British "disdainfully dubbed [Americans] a preposterous parade" (25)	Americans marched 30 miles/day in summer heat to get there (38)	
New York			
Trenton			
Princeton			
Army Life			

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