



# Summer Reading Assignment 2026

## Class Eight

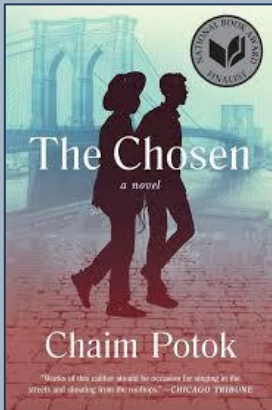
### Welcome to Class Eight!

Listed below are the required books for summer reading. You will read each novel, then answer the accompanying study questions in this packet. Please note that all questions should be answered in neat, *cursive* handwriting. You will submit these assignments to your English and history teachers on the first day of school.

**DUE DATE:** Wednesday, August 19, 2026

**QUESTIONS?** Mrs. Haber, [mhaber@pcstx.org](mailto:mhaber@pcstx.org); Mr. Sague, [esague@pcstx.org](mailto:esague@pcstx.org)

### REQUIRED READING

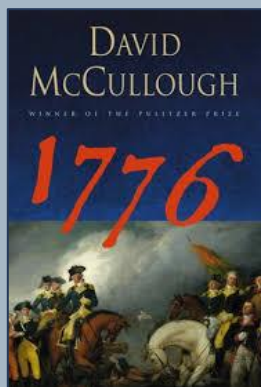


*The Chosen*  
by Chaim Potok

ISBN:  
978-1501142468

Paperback

This summer, you will read *The Chosen* by Chaim Potok and EITHER *1776* by David McCullough OR *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. Please note that students who opt to read *1776* will receive 50 bonus quiz points on the summer reading assignment, as it is a more difficult book.

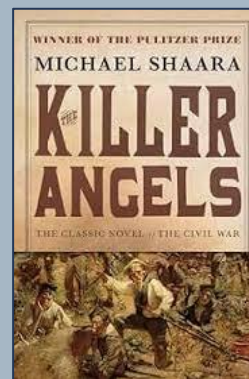


*1776*  
by David  
McCullough

ISBN:  
978-0743226721

Paperback

OR



*The Killer Angels*  
by Michael  
Shaara

ISBN:  
978-0345407276

Paperback

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Qualities in *The Chosen*

As you read *The Chosen*, make observations about the major characters and record them on the chart provided. Look for quotes that indicate strong feelings, show differences of opinion, reveal character qualities, or arouse your curiosity.

Be sure to put quotations in quotation marks, indicate the speaker of a direct quotation, and include the page number for each quote. In the “Commentary” section, offer your own thoughts about what the quote reveals about the person's character and/or your reaction to it. **Record a minimum of twelve (12) quotes from the text.** Select quotes from various chapters rather than from only one part of the book.

Your first writing assignment and the initial class discussion will be based on this novel; use the chart to prepare yourself to offer insights and reflections during discussion and in your writing.

**EXAMPLE:**

PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
31	Reuven: "I felt the anger...for me to hate him"
<b>COMMENTARY</b>	
Hate is a strong emotion for a baseball game. Is Reuven overreacting?	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### Character Qualities in *The Chosen*

PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	
PAGE	CHARACTER AND QUOTE
COMMENTARY	

## Battles and People in 1776

**NOTE: PRINT PAGES 8-19 ONLY IF YOU ARE READING 1776.**

1776 is not a fictional novel and thus 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 chart provided to keep track of the major characters and events.

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 section, record significant actions or decisions. The last three names on the chart are those of British generals. For these generals, make note of which battles they were involved in and significant decisions they made. Each quote for a character must come from a different page.

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 all entries, be sure to include page numbers to indicate where in the text specific quotes appear or where ideas came from.

**EXAMPLES:**

### BOSTON

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
The British “disdainfully dubbed [Americans] a preposterous parade” (25).	Americans marched 30 miles a day in summer heat to get there (38).
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## People and Battles in 1776

### PEOPLE

#### GEORGE WASHINGTON

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	
PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**NATHANIEL GREENE**

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE

**ACTIONS AND DECISIONS**

--	--

PAGE	QUOTE

**ACTIONS AND DECISIONS**

--	--

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## HENRY KNOX

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**JOSEPH REED**

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	
PAGE	QUOTE
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARLES LEE**

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	
PAGE	QUOTE
<b>ACTIONS AND DECISIONS</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## BRITISH GENERAL WILLIAM HOWE

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	
PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### BRITISH GENERAL HENRY CLINTON

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	
PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## BRITISH GENERAL CHARLES CORNWALLIS

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	
PAGE	QUOTE
ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## BATTLES

### BOSTON

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	

### NEW YORK

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### TRENTON

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
BRIEF SUMMARY	

### PRINCETON

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
BRIEF SUMMARY	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## ARMY LIFE

EXPECTATIONS	HARDSHIPS
BRIEF SUMMARY	

## Observations in *The Killer Angels*

**NOTE: PRINT PAGES 20-24 ONLY IF YOU ARE READING *THE KILLER ANGELS*.**

*The Killer Angels* 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. We will not be studying the Civil War until midway through the academic year, and we will visit 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, use the chart to record 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 to you about the person and/or your reaction to it. Each quote must come from a different page.

To make sure you are following the plot of the book well, please write a short character key at the beginning of the book, and write a one-sentence plot summary at the beginning of each chapter. After completing the book, you should know what happened at the Battle of Gettysburg and who was involved. This will not be assessed for a grade, but it will help you review what you read when the new school year starts.

**EXAMPLES:**

### LONGSTREET

PAGE	QUOTE
10	“He had never believed in this invasion...overruled him.”
<b>NOTES</b>	
He disagrees with Lee. Will he obey his commander?	

## Observations in *The Killer Angels*

### LONGSTREET

PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## LEE

PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## CHAMBERLAIN

PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## BUFORD

PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	
PAGE	QUOTE
NOTES	