The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara  
Summer Study Guide  
English 2 – Mr. Petroff

Use these questions to focus your reading. The guide is divided into reading sections that correspond to one night’s reading homework. Answer all of the questions on loose leaf paper. These questions are due the first day of school. They will be worth 100 pts.

Identify these characters.

Robert E. Lee  
James Longstreet  
George Pickett  
Richard Ewell  
Ambrose Powell Hill  
Lewis Armistead  
Richard Brooke Garnett  
J. E. B. Stuart  
Jubal Early  
Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain  
John Buford  
John Reynolds  
George Gordon Meade  
Winfield Scott Hancock

Monday, June 29, 1863

1. On what does Longstreet disagree with Lee and Davis?
2. What is Longstreet’s assessment of Meade?
3. What does Lee mean when he says “Stuart would not have left us blind”?

Chamberlain - 2
1. What can’t Chamberlain do with the mutineers?
2. On what philosophical basis is Chamberlain going to make decisions?
3. What is essence of Chamberlain’s explanation to the mutineers about why they should join his men?

Pages 33-68
Tuesday, June 30
Buford - 3
1. One of Buford’s men remarks that it is strange to have so much infantry moving without cavalry. What’s the explanation?
2. What does Buford predict will happen in the morning?
3. What is Buford’s assessment of what Lee is trying to do?
4. Explain the joke about Lee’s Miserables.
5. About what does Pickett complain to Longstreet? What’s the irony?
6. What do we discover about Armistead and Hancock?

Pages 73-96
Wednesday, July 1
Lee - 1
1. What does Lee want Hill not to do? Why?
2. What does the incident with the citizen and the blind horse show about Lee?
3. What is Lee’s concern about the way Longstreet leads? What is Longstreet’s response?

Buford – 2
1. Besides the name for a brand of bourbon, what is “rebel yell”?
2. Why does Buford believe he is significantly outnumbered?
3. What happens to Reynolds?

Pages 97-125
Lee - 3
1. “The Peter Principle” states that a people rise to the level of their incompetence. How might this apply to Lee’s assessment of Hill?
2. “There was blankness in his eyes, vacancy and shame.” What prompts this description of Heth?
3. Why does Longstreet say, “We shouldn’t have attacked here. Heth had his orders”?
4. What do the comments of Lee and Longstreet indicate about their differences in what each thinks should be done?
Chamberlain - 4
1. What is “Dan Butterfield”?
2. Explain the derivation of the title “Killer Angels.”
3. Whom would the Union troops like to see as their commander?

Pages 126-150
Longstreet – 5
1. How does Sharra add to the portrait of Longstreet on pages 126-127?
2. What details about several officers does Sharra present on page 132?
3. Explain the warfare tactics presented on pages 133-134.

Lee – 6
1. Summarize the conversation between Lee and Ewell on pages 137-139.
2. What are the choices for action discussed on pages 138-140?
3. Why does Lee continue to support Ewell?

Pages 155-180
Thursday, July 2, 1863
Freemantle – 1
1. What observations does Freemantle make about the army and the battle?
2. What is Freemantle’s attitude toward the upcoming battle?
3. What idea from Freemantle prompts Longstreet to say, “I confess, it had not occurred to me”?
4. What is Longstreet’s response?

Chamberlain – 2
1. How do Kilrain and Chamberlain react to the “John Henry” they discover?
2. What does Chamberlain discover about himself in this encounter?
3. What important philosophical ideas emerge in the discussion between Chamberlain and Kilrain and in Chamberlain’s story about the Southern minister?

Pages 181-205
Longstreet – 3
1. Meade has fortified Cemetery Hill, Culp’s Hill, and the ridge running south from Cemetery Hill. What hasn’t he protected?
2. Why does Lee believe that they must attack now?
3. Briefly explain the battle plan that Lee presents.
5. What suggestion does Hood offer that Lee rejects?
6. What is “enfilade” fire?
7. What is the most important element according to Longstreet in the attack?
8. Explain Lee’s comment about being a good soldier on pages 191-192.
Chamberlain – 4

1. What had Sickles done that put other Union troops in jeopardy?
2. What does Vincent want Chamberlain’s men to do? Why?
3. What happens to Kilrain? How does he react?
4. What happens to Col. Vincent?
5. What problem arises with the ammunition?
6. What is Chamberlain’s next assignment?

Longstreet – 5

1. What lie does Longstreet tell Hood and why?
2. For what is Longstreet being blamed? Why and what is the truth?
3. What sort of losses did Longstreet and Hood suffer?
4. What awkward meeting occurs at Lee’s headquarters?
5. What is Lee’s assessment of the day’s battle?
6. About what will Longstreet talk to Lee, even though he knows it is fruitless.
7. In his discussion with Freemantle, what does Longstreet cite as the reasons for Lee’s success?
   What is not a reason?
8. What unusual detail do we learn about Jackson’s battle tactics?
9. What does most of Europe think the war is about?

Lee – 6

1. The phrase “And so we broke the vow” echoes in Lee’s head? To what does it refer?
2. Why did the day’s battle fail?
3. In planning a battle what does Lee know he must not think about? On what plan of attack does Lee decide?

Chamberlain – 1

1. Why do most men feel as they do about bayonets?
2. What is ironic about the end of the chapter?
3. Cite several of Chamberlain’s observations or action that indicate his character.

Longstreet – 2

1. What does Longstreet want to do? How about Lee?
2. What arguments does Longstreet offer Lee to support not attacking?
3. What upsets Lee on page 288 and what is the explanation
4. Describe Lee’s vision of what the attack would be like.
5. What are Longstreet’s thoughts at the end of the chapter?

Chamberlain – 3

1. What had the 1st Minnesota done?
2. What did Meade want to do? Why didn’t they do it?
3. Why does Sykes want to see Chamberlain?
4. What interrupts Chamberlain’s thoughts about death and heaven?
5. What details do you find most disturbing about the artillery attack? Pages 312-345

Armistead – 4
1. How does Pickett describe war?
2. What thoughts go through Armistead’s mind as he waits for the attack?
3. What does Armistead notice about Longstreet that is out of character?
4. Why did Sharra focus on Armistead during the attack?

Longstreet - 5
1. What is Lee’s response to the attack?
2. What is Pickett’s reply when Lee asks him to reform his division?
3. With what does Lee want Longstreet to help him?
4. Why does Sharra include the comments between Lee and Longstreet on page 339?