

8th Grade Summer Read

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

978-0-345-40727-6

1. Please read the entire novel over the summer. You will spend the first few weeks of the year discussing it.

As you read, please annotate for the following:

- Basic plot and characters - what significant things and pieces of information are presented that help shape what happens during the battle?
 - This can include information about hills, bodies of water, roads, time of day, etc.
 - Use 2 highlighters to mark the characters you encounter—one for the Union soldiers, and a different for the Confederacy.
- Leadership - Who takes charge when it is needed, and how do they lead? What things do they do that get their soldiers to follow them?
- The gentleman - where is the concept of the “Southern gentleman” presented, and how is it presented? Who likes it, who doesn’t, and why?

Additionally, please write 1-3 points of summary at the end of each chapter.

When you mark your book, don’t highlight whole paragraphs. Think in terms of boxing, circling, highlighting/underlining key words or phrases and writing short notes in the margin. (see additional handout about marking your book)

2. You will need to come to school with the following assignment completed. The assignment may be typed or handwritten, should be 8-15 sentences long, and contain at least one quote from the text.

There are several places in the book where, if things had happened just a little bit differently, the outcome of the battle would have been completely different. Select one of those instances, briefly explain what happened in the novel, and then present your thoughts on what would have changed if things had turned out differently.