

# U.S. History 11H&S – Summer Reading Guide

*The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara

## Key Characters:

Confederacy – General Robert E. Lee; General James Longstreet

Union – Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain; General John Buford

Construct a character map to better understand the chain of command.

## Themes:

1. Technology and Strategy
2. Nation Divided
3. Death in War
4. Loyalty

## Essay Questions:

1. One of the major conflicts in the novel is the disagreement between Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and James Longstreet on how they should fight the battle. What does each man think and why?
2. Is Longstreet wrong to obey Lee's orders, even though he disagrees? Should he have tried to get the other generals to help him change Lee's mind?
3. How do you think the continual changes in Union command structure affect its army's performance, morale and battlefield decisions?
4. What is different with the approach and style that Shaara used in the *Killer Angels*? Although not all of the facts are accurate and he takes liberties with his portrayal of the characters, does he convey the battle effectively?

