



NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

Writers Series of Traverse City™

presents

“FIND YOUR PARK”... in a great book

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) is celebrating their 100th anniversary. The National Writers Series (NWS) is joining in the celebration by suggesting books and providing discussion guides that encourage book groups to read stories that are connected to the NPS. We hope that by reading one of these books, your book group members might rediscover a favorite park or discover a new place. In celebration

of their 100th anniversary, the NPS hopes to connect people to parks and help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability. Join in the celebration and encourage your book group to read one (or more) of these great books.

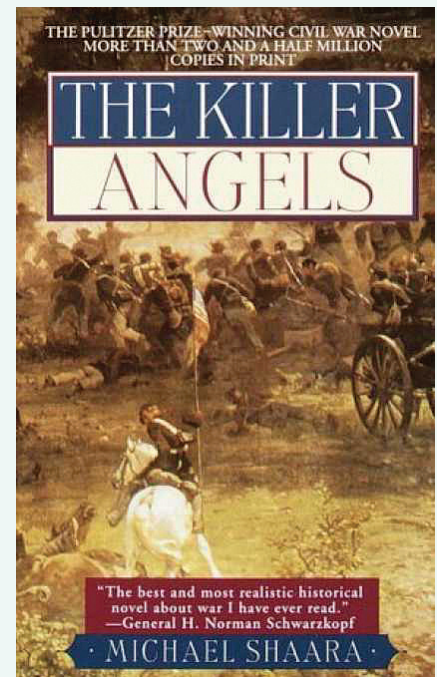
The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

In the four most bloody and courageous days of our nation's history, two armies fought for two conflicting dreams. One dreamed of freedom, the other of a way of life. Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And far more than men fell on those Pennsylvania fields. Bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were also the casualties of war. Michael Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, unforgettable—the dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.



Jeff Shaara will make a NWS appearance on June 2.

Shaara's son, Jeff Shaara, will make a NWS appearance on June 2, 2015. Jeff Shaara is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Gods and Generals* and *The Last Full Measure*—two novels that complete the Civil War trilogy that began with his father's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Killer Angels*.



ENHANCE YOUR BOOK GROUP & FIND YOUR PARK

Serve this traditional recipe from the Civil War era at your book group.

CIVIL WAR RECIPES - ONIONS & APPLES

Ingredients:

- 1 quart of water
- 1/2 pound of salt pork
- 4 apples (use the tart green ones)
- 2 large onions

Cook diced salt pork in a heavy iron skillet until crisp, and set aside the salt pork. Core the apples and slice into thin rings. Slice onions into thin rings also, fry in salt pork fat until brown. Add 1 quart of water and cook until apples and onions are tender (about five mins. and add water as needed). When tender add in the salt pork, and season to taste. This is an easy dish to prepare in the field.

For more Civil War recipes visit totalgettysburg.com

Monthly
Book Discussion Group

MAY 2015 SELECTION

The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara

FIND YOUR
PARK

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BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does General Longstreet doubt his own spy's report of the Union Army's advance toward Confederate troops in Pennsylvania? How important were spies in the fighting of this war—what purpose did they serve? Contrast their use with that of today...or their use in, say, World War II.
2. Talk about John Buford and the kind of soldier/man he was. As he tracks the Confederate Army, he stops to wave at a Rebel officer. Why would he greet an enemy in this way? What made him decide to choose Gettysburg as the spot to make a stand?
3. Why did officers under General Lee want J.E.B. Stuart court-martialed? What was Stuart's function and why was he so important to Lee? What was his relationship with General Lee? What kind of figure was he—a "show boat" or a genuine hero?
4. How could Armistead and Hancock, on opposite sides of the fight, become close friends? In fact, discuss other relationships among friends and families that were split along North-South lines.
5. What was Fremantle's purpose in traveling with Longstreet and the Confederate army? What did he hope to learn?
6. Why does Trimble thank Longstreet for an assignment that could very likely hasten Trimble's own death?
7. How does Shaara portray General Lee in this work, especially Lee's decision to attack at Gettysburg, despite Longstreet's advice not to? Why doesn't Longstreet want to fight at this particular spot?
8. How does Longstreet view war? Is his view different than Lee's?
9. Discuss Joshua Chamberlain and his countercharge on Little Round Top. How does a religion scholar and teacher become acclimated to a soldier's life—and be willing to take up arms and kill other men?
10. How does Shaara portray both sides of this horrific conflict? Is he balanced, or does he seem to favor one side over the other? Which character(s) does he seem to admire most?
11. Overall, who do you feel is the hero or heroes of this fictional account of Gettysburg? What makes a hero? And what prompts otherwise sane men to throw their bodies headlong into deadly flying projectiles? What motivated these men to put their limbs, literally, on the line?

Book discussion questions courtesy of LitLovers.com and the Random House teachers' guide

EXPLORE MORE/FIND YOUR PARK CIVIL WAR SITES:

JEFF AND MICHAEL SHAARA WEBSITE:

http://www.jeffshaara.com/shaara_books.htm

CIVIL WAR NATIONAL PARK SITES:

Gettysburg National Military Park: <http://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm>

Civil War National Battlefields: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/index.htm>

