

**Ethics of War and Peace - Mr. Oldham**  
**Sr. Summer Reading-2003**

Title: **The Brigade**

Author: Howard Blum

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Students are to read and take notes in a **bound** notebook that can also be used for class next fall. Brainstorm and write connections between the motives and decisions of the various characters in the book. Which character are you most like in dealing with life conflicts? Explain. Which character evokes the most empathy from you? Which one evokes the least empathy? Explain. How would you have responded if placed in that historical context with the same circumstances as the characters?

Here are some guiding **content** questions to answer in your **bound** notebook to guide your reading. Please don't just answer the questions without reading the entire book in context. These are helps for you and do not take the place of reading the book. Be prepared for testing and discussion upon your return this fall. Enjoy the book. Imagine how the **warrior within** you energizes you in positive and negative directions. How does your spirituality and/or religion support you in this **warrior** role?

**Review Questions**

1. What is the setting of this book? Dates, locations, historical events taking place
2. Describe the three major characters: Carmi, Peltz and Pinchuk. How are they different?  
How are they similar? How do their backgrounds and history impact their decisions to join the brigade? How are their motives for joining different?
3. Who are the Haganah? What is their philosophy? Mission?
4. Who is in control of Palestine at this time period? Why? What are the historical conflicts there?
5. Why was the brigade prevented from entering the war at the outset? by whom?
6. Comment on the fable of Heaven and Hell on page 122. Details. Meaning of fable?
7. Describe the conflict between Carmi and Kovner in chapter 35. Describe the arguments.  
Who would you support in this argument? Why?
8. How did Arazi show Carmi another way to battle as a warrior in Chapter 47? What impact did this new strategy have on Carmi as a human being? His relationships with others?
9. How did the Brigade redeem their souls in the second half of the book?
10. What impact did the thirst for revenge have on each of the main characters? Who seemed to be the most impacted by this instinctual urge? How did he deal with it? How did he change over time positively and negatively? Who refused to give in to this urge? Why did he refuse? How did the others respond to this refusal?
11. Describe Leah. How does she fit into the book? How did '**warrior**' energy help her deal with her life situations in the book? What was her conflict with the partisan commander in Chapter Twenty-Four?
12. What key event changed the means and goals of the Brigade? (see chapters 35 & 36) Describe the change of mission. How did this change cause a change within each character?
13. Why did the brigade have to use secrecy and illegal means to carry out their operations in the first half of the book? in the second half of the book? How were the goals (ends) of these means morally different in the different parts of the book? How were the characters impacted differently having different goals in the different parts of the book? Be specific.
14. In the end of the book, describe the accomplishments of the Brigade. Describe the "code" of the brigade which guided their actions. Strengths and flaws.
15. Describe your "warriors code" which guides your life vision, means of conflict resolution, your actions and ,ultimately, impacts the quality of your soul inside.