

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

H LA 11, Per. \_\_\_\_\_

***The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok**

Ch. 14-18 study questions (due on reading quiz day). **Answer all questions in well-written, full-sentence answers.** You may type your answers if you want.

**Ch. 14**

1. How does Reuven feel about the forced silence between himself and Danny? How does it affect Reuven?
2. What does Mr. Malter have to say about Reb Saunders and his order of no contact between Danny and the Malters?
3. Explain what Reb Saunders feels about a new state of Israel, and why.
4. Who are the "Irgun"? What is Zionism? What is happening in Palestine?
5. Reuven wonders about Danny, "How could he admire and trust someone who wouldn't talk to him, even if that someone was his father?" What might Danny answer? How could this also be taken metaphorically?

6. When Reuven begins the next semester, what has happened to his relationship with Danny?

7. Read this short wiki explanation of how Palestine came under British control:

“Palestine is the name (first referred to by the Ancient Greeks) of an area in the [Middle East](#) situated between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Palestine was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire in 1517 and remained under the rule of the Turks until [World War One](#). In the peace talks that followed the end of the war [WWI, 1918], parts of the Ottoman Empire were handed over to the French to **control** and parts were handed over to the **British** – including **Palestine**. **Britain** governed this area under a League of Nations mandate from 1920 to 1948.”



Read this very short article on the creation of the Jewish state:

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/creation-israel>

8. What did the creation of the state of Israel mean to Mr. Malter? Why does Reb Saunders denounce it?

9. What event finally brought a look at Reuven and brief touch in passing from Danny?

10. In your own words, explain your understanding of the method of Talmud study and discussion that is done in class and by Reuven outside class.

11. Read this short Wiki about the Talmud:

“The entire Talmud consists of 63 tractates, and in standard print is over 6,200 pages long. It is written in Mishnaic Hebrew and Jewish Babylonian Aramaic and contains the teachings and opinions of thousands of rabbis (dating from before the Common Era through to the fifth century) on a variety of subjects, including Jewish ethics, philosophy, customs, history, lore and many other topics. The Talmud is the basis for all codes of Jewish law, and is widely quoted in rabbinic [written or spoken by rabbis] literature.”

12. What do you make of why Rav Gershenson doesn't want Reuven to use his father's method of explanation of Talmud in his class? (I know this chapter is difficult to comprehend.)

### **Ch. 15**

13. As Ch. 15 starts, how has the relationship between Reuven and Danny changed?

14. What event causes the demise of Reb Saunders's anti-Zionist league at the boys' college?

### **Ch. 16**

15. Why does Danny suddenly start talking to Reuven again, and how long has it been?

16. What does Danny answer when Reuven says he doesn't like Danny's father at all?

17. What does Mr. Malter remark to Reuven about Reb Saunders's continuing silence with Danny?

18. What career field has Danny decided to pursue? What about Reuven?

**Ch. 17**

19. What has Danny learned about silence? (267) How can you relate to this—are there any silences that you can “hear”—that you have learned from?

20. Think of the idea of silence in any other works we have read this year: What idea(s) can you connect in these stories?

21. What shocking realization about Danny’s future does Reuven learn?

22. What does Mr. Malter partially reveal to Reuven about why Danny has been raised in silence (271)?

23. Why do you think Reb Saunders is silent only with Danny and not with his sister or brother?

24. Why has Reb Saunders been asking Reuven why he doesn't come over to their house anymore? And why is Mr. Malter angry with Reuven about this?

### **Ch. 18**

25. How does Ch. 18 begin? What mood is Reuven in? Why?

26. How does Reb Saunders talk to his son? Why? What does he reveal about why he has raised Danny in silence?

27. What happened when Danny was four year old that led Reb Saunders to raise his son the way he has?

28. What do we learn about Reb Saunders's brother?

29. How does being raised with a father's silence relate to "having the soul of a tzaddik"?

30. How might this same lesson relate to all of us?

31. What do you think of Reb Saunders and the way he has raised Danny?

32. What do you think about the novel? What have you gained from reading this story? (Feel free to attach a longer typed or hand-written response.)