

## *Fallen Angles*

### **Reading Guide – Chapters 1 to 5**

#### **Chapter 1**

1. What is Richard Perry's plane trip like on his way to Vietnam? Where does the plane stop? What is the date?
2. Who is Judy? What does Perry think of her?
3. Who is Peewee Gates? What does Perry think of him? What is Peewee like? What happened between Peewee and a ranger?

#### **Chapter 2**

4. What did Perry do back in the World? What is Perry's family life like? What is Perry's medical problem? How did this come about?
5. What does "Rings" ask of Peewee? Why? What is Peewee's reaction?
6. What is Perry's life like in the army?
7. Who is Jenkins? What trick does Peewee play on him? What type of soldier is Jenkins?
8. Why did Peewee join the army?

#### **Chapter 3**

9. What were the GIs like at Chu Lai? What company are Perry, Peewee, and Jenkins assigned to?
10. Who is Johnson? Where he is from? What type of soldier is he? What occurs between him and Peewee?
11. What woke Perry at night? How did the others act to this?
12. What type of weapon does Perry, Peewee, Jenkins, and Johnson have?
13. Who is Carroll? What is the rumor going around regarding Hawaii?
14. Who is Simpson? What is his main objective for his remaining 125 days?
15. Who is Monaco? Who is Brunner? What happened to the platoon when they were going to board the chopper at the pick up zone?

#### **Chapter 4**

16. What was Perry's reaction to what happened to Jenkins? What does Lieutenant Carroll say to remember Jenkins? What does he call him? Why?
17. Who is Brewster "Brew"? Who is Walowick? What type of soldier is Lieutenant Carroll?
18. Why are Perry and Peewee called in for the squad? What happened to the men of this squad?
19. What was Peewee's conversation with a VC like? What happened?
20. Who is Lobel? What is his view about the war? How do the other men react to his view?
21. What type of weapon is white phosphorus? What else did they call it?
22. What was the platoon assigned to do in Chieu Hoi? What was this village like?
23. What information does Perry learn about Captain Stewart? What is essential for him to get a promotion?

#### **Chapter 5**

24. What did Perry do during the few days off?
25. What happened during breakfast between a cook and Brunner? J
26. Where is Alpha Company going? What is their mission?
27. What does Perry want to say, but doesn't know? Why would this become an interest of his?
28. What happened to the Charlie Company? What are Lurp Teams? Why would they come to help?
29. What does Carroll say to Perry about his knee? What do they agree upon?
30. What is his main question he asks at the end of this chapter? Why does he ask it?

#### **Reading Guide Chapters 6 – 10**

##### **Chapter 6**

1. How does Jenkins' death affect Perry?

2. What is Lobel's perspective of movies? What are his plans? What roles does he play?
3. What is Perry's relationship with his Mama like? What was her reaction to Perry going to the war?
4. What did the members of the squad say when a television crew interviewed them as to why they are fighting in Vietnam?
5. What did Perry forget to do? Why is this a significant mistake? What happened when Perry realized this?
6. Whom was the man killed? What is significant or ironic about this?

### **Chapter 7**

7. Who is Jamal? What did he say to Perry about the man they killed? Who is responsible for the report? What does this mean?
8. What did Perry experience during a flashback to his life in New York? What is the significance of this? How does it relate to his experience in Vietnam?
9. Why does Perry say that Kenny is "the bridge between me and Mama"?
10. What happens to Perry when he wakes up at 0400 hours?
11. Why did a sergeant from Charlie Company refused to take his squad on patrol?
12. What happened between Walowick and Johnson? How did it start? Who was affected?
13. What does Peewee ask Perry to do? Why? What is Peewee's girlfriend like?
14. At the end of the chapter, what is Perry told to do? Why?

### **Chapter 8**

15. What is Perry doing with Charlie Company?
16. What mistake did the Fourth Platoon of Charlie Company make? Who is at fault?

17. What did Perry send to Kenny for his birthday?
18. What does Perry do to deal with the actions of war? Why?

### **Chapter 9**

19. What does Brunner ask of the men? What is Monaco's reaction? How did the men respond to Monaco's action?
20. When they arrive in the hamlet, how does Perry feel around the civilians? How does Lobel feel they are perceived as? How does Perry want to be perceived as?
21. What were the salves used for? What happened to Peewee after he bought the bottles of salves?
22. What did Peewee find out from Earlene? What's his response?
23. Why did Lobel join the army?
24. What did Perry learn about Kenny from the letter he received? What does Perry feel he means to his brother? Why?
25. What is the "bad news" the men receive?

### **Chapter 10**

26. How were the men set up in preparation for an attack? Who was at what location?
27. What does Perry think about as he waits? What is the significance of these thoughts?
28. Where did the VC men come from? In other words, where were they hiding?
29. What happened to Lieutenant Carroll? What was Perry's reaction? What did they men do to honor and help Carroll?

### **Reading Guide – Chapters 11 to 15**

#### **Chapter 11**

1. What does Simpson ask Perry to do? Why? What does Perry learn about Carroll?
2. What is Lobel's reaction and thoughts to Carroll's death?

3. Why did Captain Stewart want Perry at Headquarters? What is going on at Headquarters?
4. How is the death of Lt. Carroll different than Jenkins' death or the Charlie Company casualty?
5. Who is the new platoon leader for Perry's squad? What is he like? Where is he from?
6. Who is promoted? What rank are these soldiers promoted to?
7. What is Peewee's explanation for Carroll's death? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
8. Why are civilians in Vietnam? What is Gearhart's explanation? What is Perry's reaction to their presence?
9. Who did Peewee receive a letter from? Why?
10. What did Perry think of himself when watching the tv show of their interview? What is significant of his thoughts?

### **Chapter 12**

11. What is Woolwick's goal when he returns home? What do the guys think he should do?
12. What is Brew and Brunner's discussion about Canada? What does Brew say? What does Perry learn about Brew from this?
13. What woke the men up? What caused it?
14. What does Captain Stewart tell Sergeant Simpson to do? What's Simpson's opinion of it?

### **Chapter 13**

15. When does Perry expect to be home? Why?
16. What's the difference between the "VC" and the "NVA"?
17. How do the sounds of fighting affect Perry?
18. What's the squad's next assignment? Why?

19. Who joins their squad? Where are they from?
20. Why does Simpson ask Monaco and Perry to watch Gearhart?
21. What does Simpson say about the ambush site? What does Gearhart say? What is the tension/conflict between these two? Who does Perry trust?
22. What is the squad's set up in the area like? Where are the men posted?
23. What was Perry's job during the ambush site? Where does Perry's thoughts wander?
24. What happens when the flare goes off?
25. What mistakes do the squad, as a whole, make and by individuals from the squad?
26. Who was hurt? What happened to them?

#### **Chapter 14**

27. Why do you think Perry says, "it was better that it was a new guy" in reference to who died?
28. What news does Monaco discover in a letter? What do the other men of the platoon say to him?
29. Why does Stewart ask for Perry to come to the Headquarters? What do they discuss? What does he ask Perry to do?
30. What is a main strategy used by the VC movement? What two wars are occurring?
31. What would happen at 1800 hours? What is the platoon assigned to do? Who is the leader of the platoon now? Why?
32. What is Perry's reaction to being in the chopper? What does he do? How do the other men act?
33. What happened when they were in the chopper? What was the village like? How were the civilians?
34. How were the combat and the village setting affecting the soldiers? Who helped the men focus and calm down?
35. What were the men told to do? Who was Perry looking for? Why was he looking for her? What was her reaction?

36. What did Perry see in the hut? What did Perry face? What was his action? What did Perry and Peewee find in the hut?
37. What image does Perry create about the choppers and soldiers?
38. What happened to Peewee? How did the men feel after the day they had in the village?
39. What does Perry share with Peewee? How does this show that their friendship is becoming stronger?
40. What is the squad's next assignment? Is this one more risky than the others? Why or why not?
41. Who received mail? What information is revealed about Brunner?
42. What happened to Peewee? Why?

## **Chapter 15**

42. What did Perry write to Kenny about?
43. Where is the squad's "new home"? What is it like?
44. What were the men doing on night patrol?
45. What does Perry think about as he waits for combat?
46. What occurs in the killing zone? Where are the charlies? What do the men do? What is Gearhart's decision?
47. What is Jamal's reaction to potential combat and combat? What are Perry's concerns?
47. What happened to Sergeant Simpson? What did the army give him?
48. What did Lobel overhear and Jamal made him share with the rest of the men? What is Stewart doing with Alpha Company?
49. What is the "patrol" the men are going on? What does Lobel write to his father? Why?
50. How do the men know if charlie's been at a location? What do the men approach? What happened?

51. What happened to Brew and Perry?

## **Reading Guide – Chapters 16 – 20**

### **Chapter 16**

1. How does Perry react to being shot? What is going on? Who helps him?
2. Who does Perry touch while he is on the chopper? What happens to him? What does Perry think and what really happens?
3. Why does the “brother” call Perry “lucky”?
4. What was the hospital ward like? What were the other men there like?
5. Who does Perry meet? What is this man like? What happened to him? What does he ask Perry to do?
6. What does Judy Duncan say to Perry when she sees him? How did he feel talking to her?
7. What does the chaplain and the colonel say as to what these men did who are in the hospital ward? What does Perry and the men receive? What does Perry do with his gift?
8. What is Perry’s new reason for fighting in this war? Who did he get this reason from?
9. What is Perry’s reaction to getting his orders? What did he think of doing? What did the orders say? How long has Perry been in Vietnam at this point in time?

### **Chapter 17**

10. What has the squad been doing while Perry has been gone? What is the “bad news” the guys tell him? What is the new sergeant like?
11. What is Johnson’s problem concerning Brew? What does Lobel explain to Perry about Johnson?
12. What does Father Santora ask Perry to do? What do they talk about? What did the Father and the men of the squad do?
13. What happens between Johnson and Dongan? Why?



14. Where is Sergeant Dongon from? What pact does Johnson, Peewee, Perry and Monaco make? Why?
15. What happens while Perry, Lobel, Peewee, and Dongan are on guard duty? What does Dongan do that shows Perry that Dongan knows how to stay alive?
16. Who does their squad work with? What are they told to do? What does this mean and require them to do?
17. Who does Perry receive letters from? What information do these bring?
18. Why do the men take in a woman and two children? What does Peewee want to do for the children? What did the woman do to one of her children and to a GI? Why? What happened to her and her other child?

## **Chapter 18**

19. What is Peewee's reaction to what happened between them and the woman with two kids? What won't he admit? Why?
20. What is going on between the officers at the headquarters hooch? Who told Johnson this? What does Perry say that separates Johnson from the rest of the men in the squad?
21. What does Perry say the men of the squad learned about dying? What is the significance of this comment?
22. Where are the men going? What are they supposed to do?
23. What happens when the men go into the LZ (loading/landing zone)? Who goes in what direction? What path does Gearhart take?
24. What does Peewee share with Perry? What does this item mean to Peewee? Why do you think he shares it with Perry?
25. What move does Gearhart make with the men? Why?
26. What is Dongan's perspective about the VC's fighting abilities? What is he comparing this war to?
27. What happens to the men when they go back through the rice paddies? What happens to the ARVNs?
28. What happens when the squad reaches the village? What mistakes were the men making? What happened to Sergeant Dongan?

## **Chapter 19**

29. What do the men from the platoon agree to do with the dead men? Why? What is Perry reaction?
30. What happens when the men find a guy alive in the pile of the dead men? What do these actions mean?
31. What happened to the dog tags from Charlie Company? What scenarios does Perry play in his mind?
32. What conflict occurs between Stewart and Johnson when the men are in the wood line walking to the chopper? Who do the men follow? Why?
33. What happened to Jamal? What happens to Perry?
34. Who does the squad face? What happens during this confrontation? What is dropped on the men when they are near the clearing?
35. What does Peewee and Perry notice at the end of the chapter? What does Perry think about? What do his thoughts mean?

## **Chapter 20**

36. What do the ARVN troops do to the squad? Why? What does Gearhart do to solve the problem?
37. What happens when the men try to sleep? Who wakes up? Why? What does Walowick reveal to Perry?
38. What do the men of the squad do to remember Brew?
39. What does Gearhart do? Why? What information does it reveal? What does Perry wish for? Why?
40. What point does Peewee raise about being considered a “hero”?
41. What did Perry say in a letter to Kenny about the war?
42. What is the body count from the previous mission? What is the squad’s new mission?

## **Reading Guide – Chapters 21 – 23**

### **Chapter 21**

1. What number of Perry's squad down to? Who was the commander of the squad?
2. What happened between Peewee and Walowick?
3. What information does Monaco share with the men that is about other soldiers?
4. Where is Gearhart going? Who is taking over as squad leader? What are they suppose to check out on this mission? What do they have to get?
5. What do the men find in the water? Who finds them? How?
6. What is Lobel's reaction to killing a VC?
7. What happens to Perry and Peewee as they go across the stream?

### **Chapter 22**

8. What does Perry and Peewee do in the field? How does Perry plan to use the 3 frag grenades?
9. What do they hear? What do they think happened?
10. Where to Perry and Peewee go? Why? What did this place feel like?
11. What was Perry thinking about?
12. What does Peewee see? Who comes near them? What does this person do? What happens?
13. How does Perry help Peewee get to the pickup zone? Who is there "waiting" for them? What do they find in the bushes?
14. What happens when the chopper lands?

### **Chapter 23**

15. How does Monaco explain what he was doing at the pickup zone and when the chopper came?
16. What does Monaco say to Perry in the hospital?

17. What did Perry dream about?
18. What happened to Peewee? What were his injuries like?
19. Where is Monaco going? What information does Perry find out from Gearhart?  
How does Perry explain how Monaco, Peewee, and him feel?
20. Where are Perry and Peewee going? What happened to Judy Duncan?
21. What does Perry see when a plane lands? What does Perry see being loaded into a C-47?
22. How does Perry and Peewee try to look when soldiers for the orientation arrive?  
What is preventing them from looking a certain way?
23. Why is Peewee shaking at the end?
24. What does Perry think about at the end? What is significant about these thoughts?

### **Character Exploration – Expert and Jigsaw Groups**

This character exploration will provide insight into the six major characters of the novel, Fallen Angels. You are assigned to two groups – one with a number (this is the expert group) and one with a letter (this is the jigsaw group). In the expert group, you and several of your peers will complete the section with the character you are assigned to, and develop a way to “teach” your character to others. Then, in your jigsaw groups, you have to “teach” the information to them.

Expert Group (number) \_\_\_\_\_

Jigsaw Group (letter) \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1. Richard “Ritchie” Perry**

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

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What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **2. Harry "Pee-wee" Gates**

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

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What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 3. Johnson

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Monaco

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_

## **5. Walowick**

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Lobel**

Where from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why join? \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychological Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information (family, friend, and ambitions): \_\_\_\_\_

What do other characters think of him? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Quotes: \_\_\_\_\_