Ethics of War and Peace Summer Reading Guide for
The Brigade by Howard Blum

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? Which one is most like you? Why?
3. Who are the Haganah? What is their philosophy? Mission?
4. Who is in control of Palestine at this time? Why?
5. Why was the brigade prevented from entering the war? By whom?
6. Comment on the fable of Heaven and Hell on p.122. Details and meaning?
7. Describe the conflict between Carmi and Kovner in Ch. 3. Who would you support? Why?
8. How did Arazi show Carmi another way to battle as a warrior in Ch. 4? How did this impact Carmi as a human being and his relationships with others?
10. What impact did the thirst of revenge have on the three main characters? How did they change over time? Who was most impacted by this instincual urge? Who refused to give into this urge? Why did he refuse? How did the others respond to his refusal?
11. Describe Leah. How does she fit into this book? How did warrior energy help her deal with her Life situations? What was her conflict with the commander in Ch. 24?
12. What key event changed the ends and means of the brigade? (Ch.35/36) How did this change the mission? How did this cause a change within each character?
13. 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 of the brigade.
14. Describe your “warrior” code which guides your life vision, means to resolve conflicts, your actions and ultimately the quality of your soul inside?
15. What lessons from this book can you apply to your life, your conflicts and your relationships with your deepest Self and others? How did it impact your views on violence and non-violence?