

# QUICK CARD: *THE CHOSEN*



<b>Reference</b>	<i>The Chosen</i> . Potok, Chaim. (1967) ISBN: 978-0449213445
<b>Plot</b>	An unlikely friendship between two adolescent, Jewish boys, one Hasidic and one Orthodox, facilitates the exploration of faith and father relationships in the coming of age experience.
<b>Setting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer of 1944 through the Fall of 1950, WWII</li> <li>• Depression era United States</li> <li>• Williamsburg – a suburb of Brooklyn, New York</li> <li>• The Hasidic Jewish community</li> <li>• Adolescence</li> </ul>
<b>Characters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuven Malther, the son of a modern orthodox Jewish teacher and leader of the Zionist movement</li> <li>• Danny Saunders, the intelligent eldest son of a Hasidic rabbi</li> <li>• David Malther, Reuven’s father</li> <li>• Reb Saunders, Danny’s father</li> <li>• Levi Saunders, Danny’s little brother</li> <li>• Tony Savo, the boxer who Reuven meets in the hospital</li> <li>• Billy, a young, blind boy Reuven meets in the hospital</li> <li>• Mickey, another boy Reuven meets in the hospital</li> </ul>
<b>Conflict</b>	<p>Man vs. Man            Man vs. Society            Man vs. Himself</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Theme</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The nature of silence in God's relationship with man.</i></li> <li>• <i>The importance of mirrors for personal growth and perception.</i></li> <li>• <i>Silence and Suffering as a path to maturity and empathy.</i></li> <li>• <i>An exploration of Religious Tradition vs. Modernity.</i></li> <li>• <i>The nature of religious callings, especially in regard to the sacred and secular world – the relationship of faith and intellectual activity or calling.</i></li> <li>• <i>The relationship of national and religious identity.</i></li> <li>• <i>The dichotomy between choosing and being chosen as it relates, in particular, to vocation.</i></li> <li>• <i>The role of a father in a boy's identity and development.</i></li> <li>• <i>The need for a friend in the quest for self-discovery and maturity.</i></li> <li>• <i>The importance of vision to the individual.</i></li> <li>• <i>The significance of point of view for perception.</i></li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Literary Devices</i></p>	<p>Foreshadowing – Consider the family history of Reb Saunders in regard to Danny's circumstances as well as the story about Solomon Malmon, the 18<sup>th</sup> c Jewish intellectual whose interest in secular scholarship displaced him from the Jewish community.</p> <p>Symbolism -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for eye and sight imagery, used figuratively to suggest thematic ideas about vision, perception, and calling.</li> <li>• Consider too the softball game as a symbolic expression of national identity and the divergent attempts of the two Jewish sects to identify with the nation while retaining their spiritual heritage.</li> <li>• Silence – a poetic parallel of 20<sup>th</sup> c. Judaism in its journey with God used to explore the problem of pain and the development of empathy.</li> </ul>