**“Lives of the Dead” Questions**

1. Why is O'Brien unable to joke around with the other soldiers? Why does the old man remind him of Linda?

2. What is the function of the Linda plot in “The Lives of the Dead”? Consider in particular what it teaches him about death, memory, storytelling.

3. Who was Linda and what happened to her?

4. In many ways, this book is as much about stories, or the necessity of stories, as it is about the Vietnam War. According to O’Brien, what do stories accomplish? Why does he continue to tell stories about the Vietnam War, about Linda?

5. At the end of the book Tim says, “I realize it is Tim trying to save Timmy’s life with a story.” Explain what you think he means by that.