***The Things They Carried*: “On the Rainy River”**

Narrator(s)/Point(s) of View:

Setting(s):

**Character Chart**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Character | What is the characters **status**? What factors influence this? | What multiple **needs** does this character have?  |
| Tim O’Brien |  |  |
| Elroy Berdhal |  |  |

**Conflict(s):** Choose two types of conflicts present and briefly explain your reasoning for each.

* Person vs. Person:
* Person vs. Self:
* Person vs. Society:
* Person vs. Nature:
* Person vs. Supernatural:

**Key Quotations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Quotation (Page #) | Significance |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Reading Questions:**

1. How did Tim feel about the Vietnam War while he was at college? Do his actions and language support the idea that he “hated” the Vietnam war?

2. What were Tim’s options once he received his draft notice? Who did he hold responsible for his situation?

3. Who did O’Brien think should go to war instead of him? Do you agree? Disagree? Explain your reasoning.

4. How do the opening sentences prepare you for the story?: “This is the one story I’ve never told before. Not to anyone.” What effect do they have on the reader?

5. At the story’s close, O’Brien almost jumps ship to Canada, but doesn’t: “I did try. It just wasn’t possible.” What has O’Brien learned about himself, and how does he return home as a changed person?