***The Things They Carried*: “How to Tell a True War Story”**

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?  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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. According to O'Brien, how do you tell a true war story? What does he mean when he says that true war stories are never about war? In what sense is a “true” war story actually true? That is, in O’Brien’s terms, what is the relationship between historical truth and fictional truth?

2. Why does this story begin with the line: “This is true.” How does that prepare you, as a reader, for the story? In what sense is “this” true?

3. Find a few of O’Brien’s elements of a “true war story” (such as, “A true war story is never moral.”) Why does O’Brien believe these elements are important to a “true” war story?

4. Why is the baby water buffalo scene more disturbing than the death of one of O’Brien’s platoon members, Curt Lemon?

5. O’Brien explains that this story was “not a war story. It was a love story.” In what sense is this a “love story”? Why?