***The Things They Carried*: “Speaking of Courage”**

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?  |
| Norman Bowker |  |  |

**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. What problems does Norman confront when he returns home? What seems to prevent him from dealing with them successfully?

2. Why is this story called “Speaking of Courage”? Assume the title does NOT hold any irony. In what sense does this story speak of courage?

3. Like other male characters in this novel, Norman Bowker develops an active fantasy life. Why do these men develop these fantasy roles? What do they get from telling these fantasy stories to themselves?

4. Continuing from your response to the last questions, what does this tell you about O’Brien’s understanding of the way fiction relates to real life?

5. Why is Norman unable to relate to anyone at home? More importantly, why doesn’t he even try?