

Assignment Directions:

1) Reread "How to Tell a True War Story" and note how O'Brien uses stylistic elements to convey meaning. Pay particular attention to motifs/patterns of imagery, contrasts/juxtaposition, metafictional narration, symbolism, irony, and paradoxes.

2) Read and annotate Steven Kaplan's article "The Undying Uncertainty of the Narrator in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*," making connections to the chapter "How to Tell a True War Story".

3) Write three interpretive style questions based on the chapter and your notes. Respond to your questions in writing with analysis and textual evidence to support your claims.

Use *at least* two of the following question stems for your 3 questions. You will use these questions during our class Socratic Seminar.

- What puzzles me is...
- I'd like to talk with people about...
- Don't you think this is similar to...
- Do you agree that the big ideas seem to be...
- What does it mean when the author says...
- Do you agree that...
- Do you think...

4) Come to class prepared with your questions, responses, and text and be ready to participate in a Socratic Seminar. You will spend half of the seminar in the inner circle as a discussion participant and the other half in the outer circle as an observer. I will ask you to evaluate one of your peers when you are in the outer circle, so please take notes and be attentive to the inner circle's discussion during that time.

Feel free to write your questions in the space below!