

Chapter Eighteen
Good Form

1. What does O'Brien mean by "story-truth is truer sometimes than happening truth"? (Pg. 179)
2. How does O'Brien differentiate between "happening-truth" and "story-truth"?
3. What is the truth in this book? Is this a work of fiction or non-fiction?
4. According to O'Brien, what function do stories serve?

Chapter Nineteen
Field Trip

1. Why does O'Brien return to Vietnam?
2. Why does O'Brien return to the field?
3. What does O'Brien accuse the field of doing to him?
4. What does O'Brien do when he reaches the marshland along the river, and why?

5. After his mission is complete, how does O'Brien feel?

6. Describe the old farmer's behavior. What occurs between him and O'Brien?

7. O'Brien admits in the previous chapter that, other than his age and profession, "almost everything else is invented." (Pg. 179) Suppose that his daughter, Kathleen, is also a fictional character. Why would he put her in his story?