

Purpose and Theme

Directions: Throughout the book, Tim O'Brien has implied that he is merely relating experiences; then he confuses us by saying that he has made them up. He also differentiates between *story-truth* and *happening-truth*. Read Michael Coffey's interview with O'Brien. That article reveals several things that are fictional, not actual experiences or persons. After you have read the article, answer the following questions.

1. List three things that are definitely made up.
2. What was O'Brien's goal in writing this book?
3. How did his war experience affect his adjustment to life when he returned home?
4. If he feels that writing about the war is not an obsession, why does he continue to do so?

