***TTTC*—“HOW TO TELL A TRUE WAR STORY”**

**PART 1:** Focus on the rules that O'Brien has for telling a true war story. In the chart, summarize the rule, but be prepared to read the actual passage aloud (so include page numbers). **PART 2:** Find a story from the novel that exemplifies this rule, record it in the chart, and explain how it utilizes the rule.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **How to Tell a True War Story** | **Connection any vignette (story) from the novel**  |
| **Rule 1:**  |  |
| **Rule 2:**  |  |
| **Rule 3:**  |  |
| **Rule 4:**  |  |
| **Rule 5:**  |  |
| **Rule 6:** |  |
| **Rule 7:**  |  |
| **Rule 8:**  |  |
| **Rule 9:**  |  |
| **Rule 10:**  |  |
| **The Final Test:** “You can tell a true war story by the questions you ask. Somebody tells a story, let’s say, and afterward you ask, ‘Is it true?’ and if the answer matters, you’ve got your answer. For example, we’ve all heard this one. Four guys go down a trail. A grenade sails out. One guy jumps on it and takes the blast and saves his three buddies.Is it true? The answer matters.You’d feel cheated if it never happened” (83). |

**OVER>>>>>**

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION—be prepared to discuss these in semi-seminar format tomorrow.**

How do you explain Rat Kiley’s cruelty to the baby water buffalo and then cradling his rifle and crying as he walks away? Pay attention to O’Brien’s diction and cite specific examples.

The narrator explains that true facts and events may actually be a lie and that fictional events may be “truer than the truth.” Why might this be the case? Explain what you think he means.

It’s not surprising that the woman in the chapter would cry over the *water* *buffalo story* but not enjoy the *grenade story*, but why do you think that is? What is the deeper meaning of O’Brien’s saying that she wasn’t listening?

How do you interpret O’Brien’s assertion that proximity to death makes one more alive? Try to go beyond the idea that near-death experiences make one appreciate life more…blah, blah, blah…

In what way is war *ambiguous* (look this word up if necessary)? Give an example (of war’s ambiguity) from history as well as an example from the novel (from some chapter other than "How to Tell a True War Story").