

tim obrien interview

Tim O'Brien Interview: Unveiling the Mind Behind the Stories

tim obrien interview often reveals a profound glimpse into the mind of one of America's most compelling storytellers. Known primarily for his powerful narratives around war, memory, and truth, Tim O'Brien has fascinated readers and critics alike with works such as **The Things They Carried**. An interview with him offers not only a window into his creative process but also an exploration of the themes that continue to resonate deeply in contemporary literature.

In this article, we delve into the nuances of a Tim O'Brien interview, discussing his approach to storytelling, his reflections on the Vietnam War, and how his personal experiences shape his writing. Whether you're a fan of his work, a student of literature, or simply curious about the craft behind compelling narratives, understanding Tim O'Brien's perspective can enrich your appreciation of his contributions.

Exploring the Essence of a Tim O'Brien Interview

When engaging with a Tim O'Brien interview, one quickly realizes that his insights extend far beyond simple recollections of war or fiction writing. His conversations often touch on the blurred lines between fact and fiction, memory's role in storytelling, and the emotional truths that underlie his narratives.

The Intersection of Memory and Storytelling

One of the recurring themes in O'Brien's interviews is his belief that stories are a way to confront and make sense of trauma. He famously said that "story-truth is sometimes truer than happening-truth," emphasizing the emotional resonance that fiction can carry. This mindset challenges traditional notions of factual accuracy, inviting readers and interviewers alike to reconsider how truth is conveyed through narrative.

In a typical Tim O'Brien interview, he elaborates on how stories help him process his own experiences in Vietnam. Rather than offering a straightforward memoir, O'Brien crafts fiction that captures the emotional realities of war, often blending real events with imagined details to evoke a deeper understanding.

Writing as a Means of Healing

Another poignant takeaway from Tim O'Brien interviews is his explanation of writing as a therapeutic act. He has described his process as a way to "unburden" himself, to grapple with the weight of memories that are difficult to confront directly. This approach gives his work a raw honesty that resonates with readers who seek to understand the psychological impact of conflict.

Insights into Tim O'Brien's Creative Process

Understanding how Tim O'Brien approaches his craft is a highlight of any interview with the author. From his initial ideas to the final narrative structure, he offers valuable tips and reflections that aspiring writers can learn from.

Balancing Fact and Fiction

O'Brien often discusses the deliberate choices he makes when blending reality with invention. In interviews, he reveals that the goal isn't to deceive readers but to capture emotional truths through fictionalized stories. This technique allows him to explore complex themes more freely without being constrained by strict factual accuracy.

For writers interested in mastering this balance, O'Brien's approach serves as a masterclass in narrative flexibility. He encourages embracing ambiguity and acknowledging that sometimes the facts alone cannot convey the full human experience.

Character Development Rooted in Experience

Another common thread in Tim O'Brien interviews is his method of drawing from real people and events to create authentic characters. He emphasizes the importance of empathy and attention to detail, ensuring that each character embodies the complexities of human emotions and motivations.

This process involves meticulous observation and reflection, which O'Brien describes as essential for creating stories that feel genuine and impactful. His characters often wrestle with moral questions and personal dilemmas, reflecting the multifaceted nature of real-life individuals.

Tim O'Brien Interview Highlights on the Vietnam War

Given that much of O'Brien's most acclaimed work centers on the Vietnam War, interviews with him frequently touch on this historical backdrop. His reflections provide not only historical insight but also a commentary on how war influences memory and identity.

The War as a Backdrop for Universal Themes

While the Vietnam War is the setting for many of O'Brien's stories, he stresses that his work transcends specific historical events. In interviews, he explains that his interest lies in exploring universal themes such as fear, courage, guilt, and the search for meaning amid chaos.

This perspective helps readers and listeners understand that the emotional truths conveyed in his writing resonate beyond the specific context of Vietnam, making his stories relevant to a broad audience.

Personal Reflections and the Burden of History

O'Brien's discussions often reveal the personal toll that the war took on him and his generation. He candidly shares the difficulties of returning home and the challenges of conveying those experiences to others who did not serve.

In interviews, he also reflects on the responsibility of telling stories about war—balancing respect for those who served with the need to present honest and sometimes uncomfortable truths. This delicate balance is a hallmark of his work and a recurring theme in conversations with him.

What Readers and Writers Can Learn from Tim O'Brien Interviews

Beyond the specifics of O'Brien's life and work, his interviews offer broader lessons for anyone interested in storytelling, history, or the human condition.

- **Embrace Complexity:** O'Brien's willingness to explore ambiguous emotions and situations teaches writers to avoid simplistic narratives.
- **Value Emotional Truth:** His concept of story-truth encourages storytellers to prioritize emotional resonance over strict factual

accuracy.

- **Write with Empathy:** Developing characters with depth and nuance helps create stories that connect on a human level.
- **Use Stories to Heal:** Writing can be a powerful tool for processing trauma and understanding difficult experiences.
- **Balance Fact and Fiction:** A flexible narrative approach can illuminate truths that pure reportage might miss.

For readers, these insights deepen appreciation for O'Brien's work and highlight the power of narrative to shape our understanding of complex realities.

Tim O'Brien's Advice to Emerging Writers

In many interviews, O'Brien shares encouraging words for new writers, emphasizing persistence and honesty. He advises writers to write what they know but also to push beyond their comfort zones to explore new perspectives.

He also underscores the importance of revision and patience, reminding writers that crafting meaningful stories is often a slow and challenging process. His own career reflects this dedication to continual refinement and growth.

A Tim O'Brien interview is much more than a simple Q&A; it's an invitation to explore the intersections of memory, truth, and storytelling through the eyes of a masterful author. Whether reflecting on the Vietnam War or discussing the art of narrative, O'Brien's insights continue to inspire readers and writers alike. The depth and nuance found in his interviews illuminate why his stories remain enduringly relevant and emotionally powerful decades after they were first told.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Tim O'Brien and why is his interview significant?

Tim O'Brien is an acclaimed author known for his works on the Vietnam War, such as 'The Things They Carried.' His interviews provide deep insights into his writing process, themes, and experiences that shaped his stories.

What key themes did Tim O'Brien discuss in his recent interview?

In his recent interview, Tim O'Brien discussed themes of memory, trauma, the blurred lines between fact and fiction in war stories, and the emotional impact of storytelling.

Did Tim O'Brien talk about his writing process during the interview?

Yes, Tim O'Brien shared details about his writing process, emphasizing the importance of emotional truth over literal facts and how he blends storytelling techniques to convey complex war experiences.

How does Tim O'Brien reflect on the Vietnam War in his interview?

Tim O'Brien reflects on the Vietnam War as a deeply personal and transformative experience, highlighting the moral ambiguities and psychological scars faced by soldiers, which he portrays through his literary work.

Are there any new projects or books Tim O'Brien mentioned in the interview?

During the interview, Tim O'Brien hinted at working on new literary projects, although he did not provide specific details or release dates for upcoming books.

Where can I watch or read the full Tim O'Brien interview?

The full Tim O'Brien interview is available on major literary websites, public radio archives, and some video platforms such as YouTube, as well as in print in various literary magazines and journals.

Additional Resources

Tim O'Brien Interview: Insights into the Mind Behind Vietnam War Literature

tim obrien interview sessions offer a rare glimpse into the experiences and creative processes of one of America's most influential writers on the Vietnam War. Known primarily for his seminal work, **The Things They Carried**, O'Brien's reflections during interviews reveal the complex interplay between memory, trauma, and storytelling that defines his narrative style. This article delves into various aspects of the Tim O'Brien interview landscape,

exploring how his firsthand accounts and literary techniques continue to resonate with readers and scholars alike.

Exploring the Depths of Tim O'Brien's Narrative Approach

Tim O'Brien's interviews often underscore his unique approach to storytelling, blending fact and fiction in a way that challenges traditional war literature. In several discussions, he emphasizes that his goal is not merely to recount historical events but to capture the emotional truth of war. This perspective is crucial to understanding why O'Brien's work stands apart from more conventional memoirs or journalistic accounts.

In a notable Tim O'Brien interview, he discusses the concept of "story-truth" versus "happening-truth," a distinction he uses to explain how narrative can sometimes convey deeper realities than factual accuracy alone. This concept has sparked significant academic interest, positioning O'Brien's work at the intersection of history, psychology, and literary studies.

The Role of Memory and Trauma in O'Brien's Interviews

Multiple Tim O'Brien interview transcripts reveal a recurring theme: the lasting impact of trauma on memory and storytelling. O'Brien often speaks candidly about how his own memories of the Vietnam War are fragmented and how this fragmentation influences the structure of his writing. He suggests that memory is inherently unreliable but that this unreliability is what makes his stories authentic and relatable.

This approach aligns with contemporary understandings of PTSD and trauma narratives, where the fragmented recollection is seen as a natural consequence of psychological distress. By incorporating this into his interviews, O'Brien not only humanizes the soldier's experience but also offers a literary technique that mirrors real-life mental processes.

Tim O'Brien Interview Highlights: Themes and Literary Techniques

A deep dive into various Tim O'Brien interview highlights reveals several core themes that recur throughout his public conversations. These include the moral ambiguity of war, the burden of guilt, and the redemptive power of storytelling. Each theme is intricately connected to O'Brien's narrative philosophy and his broader commentary on the Vietnam War.

The Moral Ambiguity of War

O'Brien's interviews frequently address the complex ethical dilemmas faced by soldiers. Unlike many war authors who adopt a clear-cut stance, O'Brien presents war as a morally ambiguous space where right and wrong are often indistinguishable. This nuanced view is evident in his interview reflections, where he resists romanticizing combat or portraying it in black-and-white terms.

This thematic exploration is significant for readers seeking a deeper understanding of the psychological and ethical challenges of warfare. It also explains why O'Brien's work has been widely adopted in academic curricula, especially in courses focused on war ethics and literature.

Storytelling as a Means of Healing

Another focal point in Tim O'Brien interview content is the therapeutic aspect of storytelling. O'Brien often articulates how recounting his experiences, whether through fiction or nonfiction, serves as a method of coping with trauma. This therapeutic value extends beyond the author himself, as readers frequently report finding solace and understanding through his narratives.

By framing storytelling as both an artistic and healing practice, O'Brien contributes to the broader discourse on narrative therapy and the role of literature in processing traumatic experiences.

Comparative Perspectives: Tim O'Brien Interview vs. Other War Authors

When situating Tim O'Brien interview material alongside interviews with other Vietnam War authors such as Michael Herr or Philip Caputo, distinct differences emerge. While Herr's interviews often focus on the chaotic and journalistic aspects of the war, and Caputo's on personal memoirs and investigative reporting, O'Brien's discussions delve more into the philosophical and psychological realms of storytelling.

This contrast highlights O'Brien's distinctive contribution to war literature. His interviews are not just about recounting events but about questioning the very nature of truth in war narratives. This perspective enriches the dialogue about how wars are remembered and represented in American culture.

Pros and Cons of O'Brien's Narrative Style as Discussed in Interviews

- **Pros:**

- Offers a profound emotional connection to the Vietnam War experience.
- Challenges traditional war narratives by blending fact and fiction.
- Provides insight into the psychological effects of trauma.

- **Cons:**

- Blurring of fact and fiction can confuse readers looking for historical accuracy.
- Some critics argue that the narrative ambiguity diminishes accountability.
- Complex narrative style may be less accessible to casual readers.

These pros and cons often come up during Tim O'Brien interview sessions, reflecting the ongoing debates about the role of literature in representing war.

Impact of Tim O'Brien Interviews on Literary and Academic Communities

The influence of Tim O'Brien interview transcripts extends beyond literary enthusiasts into academic spheres. Educators frequently use his interviews to complement the study of his novels, providing students with context about his intentions and background. This supplementary material deepens understanding of the texts and fosters critical thinking about the nature of war stories.

Moreover, O'Brien's interviews have been cited in numerous scholarly articles addressing narrative theory, trauma studies, and war ethics. His candid reflections serve as primary sources that illuminate the creative and psychological processes behind war literature.

O'Brien's Views on the Future of War Literature

In more recent Tim O'Brien interview appearances, he has voiced concerns about how future generations will understand wars they have not experienced directly. He emphasizes the importance of preserving storytelling as a means to convey the emotional realities of conflict, warning against the sanitization or oversimplification of war histories.

This forward-looking perspective encourages ongoing dialogue about the responsibilities of writers, historians, and educators in shaping collective memory.

The insights gleaned from Tim O'Brien interview collections demonstrate the enduring power of narrative to shape perceptions of conflict and humanity. Through his thoughtful engagement with themes of memory, truth, and morality, O'Brien continues to influence how the Vietnam War—and war in general—is understood in both literary and cultural contexts.

[Tim Obrien Interview](#)

tim obrien interview: Conversations with Tim O'Brien Patrick A. Smith, 2012-10-22 On the strength of a National Book Award for his novel *Going After Cacciato* and a widely acclaimed short-story cycle, *The Things They Carried*, Tim O'Brien (b. 1946) cemented his reputation as one of the most compelling chroniclers of Vietnam—and, in the process, was cast as a "Vietnam writer." But to confine O'Brien to a single piece of ground or a particular style is to ignore the broad sweep of a career spanning nearly four decades. In addition to detailed discussions of all of O'Brien's work—a memoir, *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, and seven books of fiction—the sixteen interviews and profiles in *Conversations with Tim O'Brien* explore common themes, with subtle differences. Looming large is the experience of Vietnam and its influence as well as O'Brien's youth in Minnesota and the expectations of a midwestern upbringing. Interviews allowed the writer to fully examine the shifting boundaries of truth and identity, memory, and imagination in fiction; the role of war in society; gender issues; and the craft of writing. O'Brien approaches each of these topics and a host of others with a directness and an evident passion that will resonate with both readers and prospective writers.

tim obrien interview: Traveler Bobbie Malone, Bill C. Malone, 2022-09-15 For five decades, as a singer, musician, songwriter, and producer, Tim O'Brien has ceaselessly explored the vast American musical landscape. While Appalachia and Ireland eventually became facets of the defining myth surrounding him and his music, he has digested a broad array of roots styles, reshaping them to his own purposes. Award-winning biographer Bobbie Malone and premier country music historian Bill C. Malone have teamed again, this time to chronicle O'Brien's career and trace the ascent of Hot Rize and its broadening and enrichment of musical traditions. At the beginning of that career, O'Brien moved from his native West Virginia to the Rocky Mountain West. In just a few years, he became the lead singer, mandolin and fiddle player, and principal songwriter of beloved 1980s bluegrass band Hot Rize. Seeking to move beyond bluegrass, he next went to Nashville. O'Brien's success in navigating the shoals of America's vast reservoir of folk musical expressions took him into the realm of what is now called Americana. The core of Tim O'Brien's virtuosity is his abiding and energetic pursuit of the next musical adventure. As a traveler, he has ranged widely in choosing the

next instrument, song, style, fellow musicians, or venue. Written with O'Brien's full cooperation and the input of family, friends, colleagues, and critics, *Traveler* provides the first complete, behind-the-scenes picture of a thoroughly American self-made musical genius—the boy who grew up listening to country artists at the WWVA Wheeling Jamboree and ended up charting a new course through American music.

tim obrien interview: A Study Guide for Tim O'Brien's Things They Carried Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-09-15 A Study Guide for Tim O'Brien's *Things They Carried*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Short Stories for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Short Stories for Students* for all of your research needs.

tim obrien interview: Understanding Tim O'Brien Steven Kaplan, 1995 A comprehensive review of the most important writer to emerge from the Vietnam War.

tim obrien interview: Conversations with Tim O'Brien Patrick A. Smith, 2012-10-22 Interviews with the author of *Going After Cacciato* and *The Things They Carried*

tim obrien interview: Tim O'Brien Tobey C Herzog, 2018-04-17 This collection of seven essays, like the carefully linked collection of vignettes within Tim O'Brien's most popular book *The Things They Carried*, contains multiple critical and biographical angles with recurring threads of life events, themes, characters, creative techniques, and references to all of O'Brien's books. Grounded in thorough research, Herzog's work illustrates how O'Brien merges his life experiences with his creative production; he rarely misses an opportunity to introduce these critical life events into his writing.

tim obrien interview: Mojo Hand Timothy J. O'Brien, David Ensminger, 2013-04-01 Presents the life of the acclaimed blues musician, known for songs whose topics ranged from his African American roots to space exploration, and focuses on his eccentric style of guitar playing and his lasting influences in music.

tim obrien interview: How White Men Won the Culture Wars Joseph Darda, 2021-05-25 Reuniting white America after Vietnam. "If war among the whites brought peace and liberty to the blacks," Frederick Douglass asked in 1875, peering into the nation's future, "what will peace among the whites bring?" The answer then and now, after civil war and civil rights: a white reunion disguised as a veterans' reunion. *How White Men Won the Culture Wars* shows how a broad contingent of white men—conservative and liberal, hawk and dove, vet and nonvet—transformed the Vietnam War into a staging ground for a post-civil rights white racial reconciliation. Conservatives could celebrate white vets as deracinated embodiments of the nation. Liberals could treat them as minoritized heroes whose voices must be heard. Erasing Americans of color, Southeast Asians, and women from the war, white men could agree, after civil rights and feminism, that they had suffered and deserved more. From the POW/MIA and veterans' mental health movements to Rambo and "Born in the U.S.A.," they remade their racial identities for an age of color blindness and multiculturalism in the image of the Vietnam vet. No one wins in a culture war—except, Joseph Darda argues, white men dressed in army green.

tim obrien interview: Tim O'Brien in the Classroom Barry Gilmore, Alexander Kaplan, 2007 Many students, even those who claim to dislike stories of war and violence, are drawn to the writing of Tim O'Brien, especially *The Things They Carried*. The mysteries and 'gray areas' in his work make it a perfect addition to units on fiction of the Vietnam War, first-person narratives, modern stories and novels, and war stories, among others. *Tim O'Brien in the Classroom* focuses on opportunities for classroom discussion and writing assignments, including lessons, open-ended prompts, and student writing samples. --

tim obrien interview: Writing Vietnam, Writing Life Tobey C. Herzog, 2009-05 Phillip Caputo, Larry Heinemann, Tim O'Brien, and Robert Olen Butler: four young midwestern Americans coming of age during the 1960s who faced a difficult personal decision—whether or not to fight in Vietnam. Each chose to participate. After coming home, these four veterans became prizewinning

authors telling the war stories and life stories of soldiers and civilians. The four extended conversations included in *Writing Vietnam*, *Writing Life* feature revealing personal stories alongside candid assessments of each author's distinct roles as son, soldier, writer, and teacher of creative writing. As Tobey Herzog's thoughtful interviews reveal, these soldier-authors have diverse upbringings, values, interests, writing careers, life experiences, and literary voices. They hold wide-ranging views on, among other things, fatherhood, war, the military, religion, the creative process, the current state of the world, and the nature of both physical and moral courage. For each author, the conversation and richly annotated chronology provide an overview of the writer's life, the intersection of memory and imagination in his writing, and the path of his literary career. Together, these four life stories also offer mini-tableaux of the fascinating and troubling time of 1960s and 1970s America. Above all, the conversations reveal that each author is linked forever to the Vietnam War, the country of Vietnam, and its people.

tim obrien interview: War in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* Gary Wiener, 2011-06-13 This did not happen is a common refrain throughout the stories in *The Things They Carried*. Tim O'Brien's account of the Vietnam War purposely blurs the line between fact and fiction to get closer to the truth of what soldiers actually experienced. This compelling volume explores the life of Tim O'Brien and his attempts to wrestle with the trauma and shame of war in *The Things They Carried*. A collection of related essays explore topics such as the moral complexity of war, writing as a path to spiritual redemption, and the novel's portrayal of gender. Contemporary perspectives on war, such as the need to help soldiers suffering from PTSD and not repeating the mistakes of Vietnam, are also presented.

tim obrien interview: *Fear and Courage in Tim O'Brien's *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, *Going After Cacciato*, and *The Things They Carried** James Parks Hughes, 1998 After serving a tour as an infantryman in Vietnam (1969-1970), Tim O'Brien returned to the United States and began a career as a writer. He has since published six books and numerous short stories and has distinguished himself as an accomplished author in the process. Three of his books, *If I Die in a Combat Zone* (1973), *Going After Cacciato* (1978), and *The Things They Carried* (1990), deal specifically with the Vietnam war. In these works O'Brien clearly establishes fear as both a dominant aspect of the experience and an essential component necessary for the display of courage, one of his most significant considerations. He portrays bravery as an individual's ability to perform acts and make decisions despite apprehension, and he reveals the difficulty of demonstrating fortitude in the morally ambiguous environment of Vietnam where the horror of death was often secondary to that of cowardice. Ultimately, however, although the arena of armed combat provides a unique setting in which to display human conduct and consciousness, the link between courage and fear that O'Brien illustrates is not a war issue but rather a universal one. The strength of his writing lies in his ability to depict this intricate relationship in a manner that is relevant to humanity as a whole. Furthermore, his vivid presentation of the Vietnam conflict, without anti-war protest or political agenda, makes its own case for the prevention of a similar sacrifice of human lives and innocence in the future.

tim obrien interview: *A Study Guide for Tim O'Brien's "Where Have you Gone, Charming Billy?"* Gale, Cengage Learning,

tim obrien interview: *Tim O'Brien* Patrick A. Smith, 2005-06-30 After growing up in Minnesota and graduating from college, Tim O'Brien received a draft notice and joined the war effort in Vietnam. He chronicled his combat experiences in his memoir *If I Die in a Combat Zone*, *Box Me Up* and *Ship Me Home*, and then went on to write the eight novels that are discussed in this volume. The novels reflect their characters' struggle with the effects of place, namely small-town America, in the Vietnam Era.

tim obrien interview: *American Writers* Elizabeth H. Oakes, 2004 *American Writers* focuses on the rich diversity of American novelists

tim obrien interview: *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature* Jay Parini, 2004 The *Encyclopedia of American Literature* gathers together 350 essays from over 190 leading scholars on the whole of American literature, from European discovery to the present. At the core of the

Encyclopedia lie 250 essays on poets, playwrights, essayists, and novelists. Figures such as Whitman, Melville, Faulkner, Frost, and Morrison are discussed in detail with each examined in the context of his or her times, an assessment of the writer's current reputation, a bibliography of major works, and a list of major critical and biographical works about the writer. Fifty entries on major works such as *Moby Dick*, *Song of Myself*, *Walden*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Waste Land*, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Beloved* place the work in its historical context and offer a range of possibilities with regard to critical approach. The Encyclopedia also contains essays on literary movements, periods, and themes, pulling together a broad range of information and making connections between them. Each entry has its own primary and annotated secondary bibliography, and a system of cross-references helps readers locate information with ease. The Encyclopedia of American Literature is an outstanding reference source for students studying authors, or particular pieces of literature; libraries looking for one comprehensive source; and readers interested in American literature, its authors, and its connection with various areas of study.

tim obrien interview: The American Short Story Handbook James Nagel, 2015-02-23 This is a concise yet comprehensive treatment of the American short story that includes an historical overview of the topic as well as discussion of notable American authors and individual stories, from Benjamin Franklin's "The Speech of Miss Polly Baker" in 1747 to "The Joy Luck Club". Includes a selection of writers chosen not only for their contributions of individual stories but for bodies of work that advanced the boundaries of short fiction, including Washington Irving, Sarah Orne Jewett, Stephen Crane, Jamaica Kincaid, and Tim O'Brien Addresses the ways in which American oral storytelling and other narrative traditions were integral to the formation and flourishing of the short story genre Written in accessible and engaging prose for students at all levels by a renowned literary scholar to illuminate an important genre that has received short shrift in scholarly literature of the last century Includes a glossary defining the most common terms used in literary history and in critical discussions of fiction, and a bibliography of works for further study

tim obrien interview: Covering the Courts S. L. Alexander, 2004-09-08 News coverage of law can be a daunting task for any journalist, especially in a time when public interest in media coverage of the courts has greatly intensified. The second edition of *Covering the Courts* provides the most up-to-date resources for journalists and students. Detailed descriptions of each step of the judicial process along with tips from top journalists allow for a comprehensive analysis of courtroom activities. This handbook also addresses the complex issues surrounding the free press/fair trial controversy, pre-trial publicity, and the various types of news coverage allowed across the country. New discussions include recent high-profile trials such as *US v Microsoft*, the 2000 presidential election, and cases relating to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. This book is a substantial resource for journalism students and journalists covering the modern legal system.

tim obrien interview: Quicklet on The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien Macie Melendez, 2011-12-14 Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less. Tim O'Brien is an American author who is most known for writing on his experience serving in the Vietnam War. He was born in a small town called Austin in Minnesota in 1946. He currently resides in Austin, Texas where he teaches at Texas State University-San Marcos. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota and attended Harvard after his tour in Vietnam. He was drafted into the Army and served in the Vietnam war from 1968 to 1970. Other notable titles O'Brien has published include *If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home*, *Northern Lights*, *The Nuclear Age*, and *Going After Cacciato* *The Things They Carried* is a collection of related short stories about the Vietnam war. Although based upon the real-life experiences of author Tim O'Brien's time served in the war, the title page of the novel refers to the book as a work of fiction. Additionally, a few of the book's characters show similarities to characters from O'Brien's autobiography *If I Die in a Combat Zone: Box Me Up and Ship Me Home*. Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less.

tim obrien interview: *Search and Clear* William J. Searle, 1988 *Search and Clear* demonstrates that the seeds of war were implicit in American culture, distinguishes between literature spawned by

Vietnam and that of other conflicts, reviews the literary merits of works both well and little known, and explores the assumptions behind and the persistence of stereotypes associated with the consequences of the Vietnam War. It examines the role of women in fiction, the importance of gender in Vietnam representation, and the mythic patterns in Oliver Stone's Platoon. Essayists sharply scrutinize American values, conduct, and conscience as they are revealed in the craft of Tim O'Brien, Philip Caputo, Michael Herr, Stephen Wright, David Rabe, Bruce Weigl, and others.

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