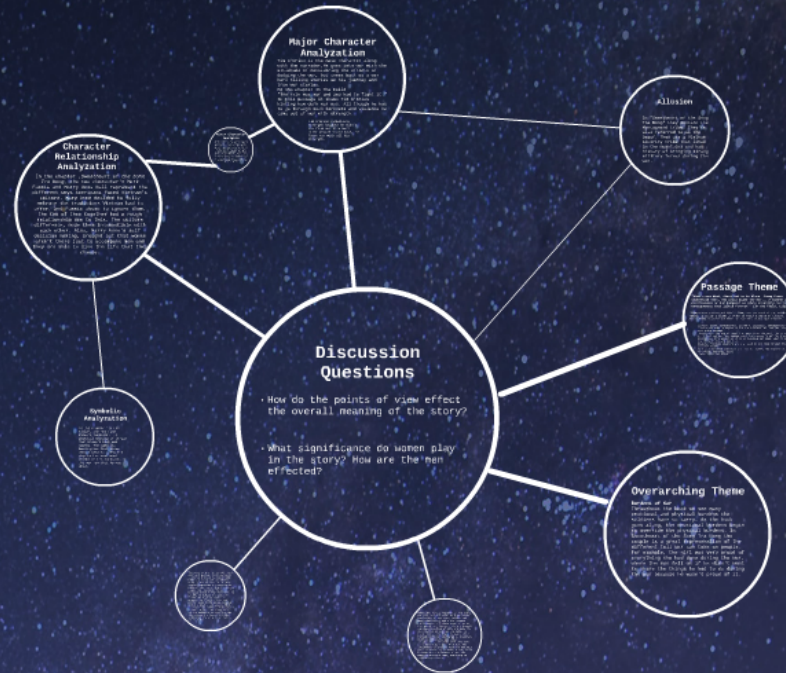
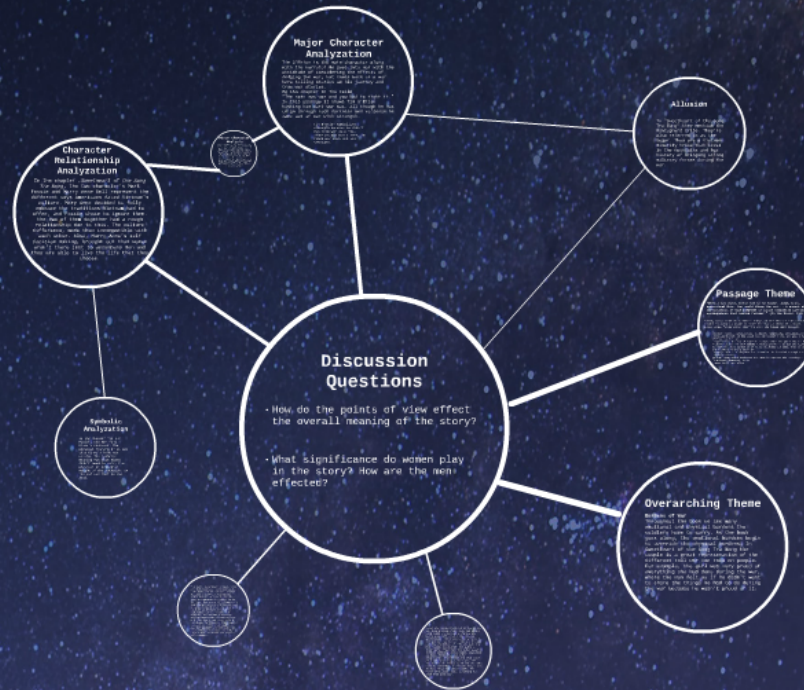


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Harvard Case Solution & Analysis



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Discussion Questions

- How do the points of view effect the overall meaning of the story?
- What significance do women play in the story? How are the men effected?

The story is written in both first and third person. First person is used when O'Brien has not trouble telling a story and has little shame in his actions. It is also used to emphasize the story he is telling. The use of third person is significant because O'Brien is able to space himself from the truth. He is able to demise the value of situations such as death. For example, in "The Man I Killed," O'Brien uses third person to cope with the death, yet also to hide his shame for killing. Third person is used to tell the struggles of all the soldiers and not just his. This allows the reader to truly understand the effect war had on all soldiers.

Women are rarely featured in the story, yet play a vital role. Only two women were named in the story (Martha and Marry Anne Bell) and a few unnamed girlfriends. All these women effected the men during the war. The war brought out the cruelties of life and made the men realize to cherish the women in their life. They kept the women alive through letters, photographs, inanimate objects, memories, and their imagination. The women were also used as a distraction away from war. The bitterness of the war made the men hold onto to something or someone they loved to keep their happiness alive. The women symbolized hope, something to hold onto post-war.

Overarching Theme

Burdens of War

Throughout the book we see many emotional and physical burdens the soldiers have to carry. As the book goes along, the emotional burdens begin to override the physical burdens. In *Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong* the couple is a great representation of the different toll war can take on people. For example, the girl was very proud of everything she had done during the war, where the man felt as if he didn't want to share the things he had to do during the war because he wasn't proud of it.

Passage Theme

"When a man died, there had to be blame. Jimmy Cross understood this. You could blame the war... A moment of carelessness or bad judgment or plain stupidity carried consequences that lasted forever." (In the Field, 115)

"Jimmy Cross understood this"- Jimmy and the rest of the soldiers needed to assign a blame in order to reach a sense of closure. Since Jimmy "understood this" he took the blame upon himself.

Diction: Blame, carelessness, judgment, stupidity, consequences// Harsh words used to emphasize how the soldiers felt and what they were going through

Repetition: The use of repetition emphasizes the guilt the soldiers would feel and how they NEEDED something/someone to put the blame on to move on. It's almost as if he is thinking out loud, what to place the blame of Kiowa's death on.

Imagery: Previous chapters are channeled in the mind through the possible blames

Syntax: Same-sized sentences are used to amplify the repetition.

Tone/Mood: Shameful, blunt

Theme: Guilt and blame

Allusion

In "Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong" they mention the Montagnard tribe. They're also referred to as the Degar. They are a Vietnam minority tribe that lives in the mountains and has history of bringing strong military forces during the war.