

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Unit 1: Narrative Elements

“Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?” and “The Naked Soldier” by Tim O’Brien
adapted from Holt McDougal Literature: Grade 9

Purpose: Connect the short story “Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?” and the interview “The Naked Soldier” by identifying and writing about the thematic ideas that connect the two texts.

Task: Choose ONE of the following questions to respond to. Be sure your short-constructed response includes the reference point mentioned in the prompt below. Remember: because you are writing about two texts, you must include at least one direct quotation from each of the texts in your response.

1. In “The Naked Soldier” on p. 836, O’Brien talks about the two different kinds of courage – the courage it took to serve in Vietnam and the courage it took to defy the draft and flee to Canada. In your opinion, which act was more courageous? Use evidence from both the story and the interview to support your opinion.
2. O’Brien defines heroism in “The Naked Soldier” as an “Unglamorous kind of valor to just keep going, knowing you might die with every step, and just keep walking.” How is this definition evident in his short story “Where Have You Gone, Charming Billy?” Support your answer with evidence from both texts.

Attach this sheet to your work before turning it in.

Ms. Muhlbaier

Language Arts

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