

Name: _____ Class: _____ **DUE DATE: Thur, March 28**

Quotes from “On the Rainy River” by Tim O’Brien

“““ Courage, I seemed to think, comes to us in finite quantities, like an inheritance, and by being frugal and stashing it away and letting it earn interest, we steadily increase our moral capital in preparation for that day when the account must be drawn down. It was a comforting theory. It dispensed with all those bothersome little acts of daily courage; it offered hope and grace to the repetitive coward; it justified the past while amortizing the future (40). **What do these words mean? How do they make you feel? What do they make you think of? What can you infer about the narrator?**

“““ Knowledge, of course, is always imperfect, but it seemed to me that when a nation goes to war it must have reasonable confidence in the justice and imperative of its cause. You can't fix your mistakes. Once people are dead, you can't make them undead (40-41). **What do these words mean? How do they make you feel? What do they make you think of? What can you infer about the narrator?**

“““ I survived, but it's not a happy ending. I was a coward. I went to the war (61). **What do these words mean? How do they make you feel? What do they make you think of? What can you infer about the narrator?**

LITERARY ANALYSIS "On the Rainy river" (39-61)

1 - POINT of VIEW:

2 - THEMES (provide a quote from the story that expresses each of these themes)

⊕ courage

⊕ guilt, shame

⊕ reputation

⊕ truth

⊕ weakness

3 - CHARACTER: Tim, the narrator. What is your opinion of Tim? Explain.

Character & Comprehension Questions

1. While he was in college, how did Tim feel about the war in Vietnam?
2. How did Tim feel when he got his draft notice?
3. What was Tim's job in the summer of 1968?
4. What were Tim's options once he received his draft notice?
5. Whom did he hold responsible for his situation?
6. Who did he think should go to war instead of him?
7. What did he do at work when he decided to leave?
8. What does Tim say is Elroy Berdhal's role in his life?

