

Comparing Literature About War (page 1188)

Graphic Organizer

Ambush TIM O'BRIEN

The Gift in Wartime TRAN MONG TU

from Stay Alive, My Son PIN YATHAY

Camouflaging the Chimera YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA

These four selections all address the horror of war, but how do they differ in their approaches? Use the chart below to help you formulate comparisons.

ACTIVITY

Directions Read through each author's work and identify words that would fit under each of the headings listed below. After the chart is filled in, use it to help you answer the following questions: What similar consequences do all of these characters experience as a result of war? What do the key words and images tell you about the theme?

	Key Characters	Key Words	Images
O'Brien	daughter 23-year-old Tim man killed	1. _____ automatic	2. morning fog _____
Mong Tu	3. _____	next life shrapnel war dress smell of blood motionless body springtime of life	4. _____ tomb still green with grass
Yathay	5. _____	6. _____ self-preservation	sobbing wife swollen limbs sweet and wasted features sleeping child shadows of wife's eyes
Komunyakaa	American soldiers	branches mud grass 7. _____	8. _____

Selection Quick Check (page 1189)

Ambush TIM O'BRIEN

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. In "Ambush," why does O'Brien kill the young man?

2. What image comes to his mind when he thinks of the event?

3. Why does he decide not to tell his daughter the truth?

4. How does the young man die?

5. When does O'Brien find himself dwelling on thoughts of the man?
