

Identifying Writer's Style

Based on your knowledge of Chapter One, how would you define Tim O'Brien's style? Please use specific evidence to support your conclusions.

1. Syntax

- a. How would you describe his sentence structure? How are his sentences ordered? How long are his sentences? How does he use punctuation? Is there one punctuation mark he uses more than others? Do you recognize any repetitive sentence structures/forms?

2. Vocabulary –

- a. Which of the below words best describes the language used?

Jargon

Moralistic

Vulgar

Picturesque

Figurative

Informal

Concrete

Conversational

Detached

Formal

Scholarly

3. Stylistic devices

- a. What stylistic devices does he use the most? Identify his three most commonly and prevalently used devices in Chapter One. Provide examples.

4. Tone and Mood – what feeling does the piece give off.
- a. Study the below tone words. Which two or three tone words would you use to describe his attitude toward the subject (war, soldiers, individuals)? How are these tones constructed/conveyed?

Solemn

Wistful

Incredulous

Apologetic

Dogmatic

Impudent

Candid

Apathetic

Melancholy

Incisive

Pensive

Dreamy

Censorious

5. Theme – understand what O'Brien's intent is in this chapter.
- a. What is his purpose/argument? If his topic is war, soldiers, and/or the individual, what is he trying to say about these topics? What is his argument about the war in this chapter? Can you find a sentence in the text that summarizes his theme/main idea?