

2PR The Critical Reading Process

Preview the text, including the guiding question.

Read the text, double-underlining the thesis statement, underlining the major support, and circling the transitions. Consider the quality of the support.

Pause to question and interpret the text. Take notes and write down questions about what you are reading.

Review the text and your notes, and **respond** to it. Write answers to the Pause prompts.

Tam Nguyen

Reflection

Guiding Question Why does the writer feel such a deep connection to O'Brien?

Vocabulary The following words are *italicized* in the essay: *concise*, *devoid*, *evoked*, *distorts*, *deconstruction*, *combatants*, *plaguing*. If you do not know their meanings, look them up in a dictionary or online.

1 The author Tim O'Brien came to Bunker Hill Community College for an event hosted by the Veterans Club. The event drew so many people that the A Lounge, where it took place, was overcrowded. People were standing wherever they could find a spot and those who wanted to attend spilled out into the hallway leading to the lounge. Despite the mass of people, the audience was silent. As I came into the room, I was drawn into an invisible circle that trapped me, and the force drawing the audience and me in was Tim O'Brien. He was casually dressed in jeans, a T-shirt, and his favorite baseball cap. He spoke slowly and quietly. Every word he uttered was clear, *concise*, factual, and *devoid* of excess emotion. Each word, however, trapped the audience in an emotion, and besides me, I saw a few others shedding tears from his presentation.

2 I joined the audience in the middle of the event, after finishing up at work. When I came, O'Brien was discussing "The Man I Killed," one of the most famous stories in his novel *The Things They Carried*. "The Man I Killed"

Combining mod
Notice that the author uses narration within the illustration essay.

Pause What effect does O'Brien have on the audience?