



“I remember Norman Bowker and Henry Dobbins playing checkers every evening before dark. It was a ritual for them. They would dig a foxhole and get the board out and play long, silent games as the sky went from pink to purple.”

Please complete all work on another sheet or the reverse. Work done on this sheet will not be counted.

Comprehension

1. What does O'Brien remember Bowker doing at night before going to bed?
2. How does Curt Lemon die?
3. What does Azar do to the puppy?
4. How does Azar justify his actions?

Characterization

1. Skim back through Spin. What inferences can you make, either directly or indirectly, about the characters that comprise O'Brien's unit? Please pick two and provide your analysis of the character.

Example

Azar, who strapped a puppy to an anti-personal mine for no apparent reason, seems to be especially cruel. Additionally, he seems to act quite callously when confronted with his actions, saying "Christ, I'm just a boy," (37) as though that somehow makes his abuse acceptable.

Other characters include:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Sanders | Strunk |
| Bowker | Lemon |
| Dobbins | Kiowa |
| Cross | O'Brien |
| Kiley | |

Analysis

1. O'Brien seems to have plenty of fragmented, half-stories to tell us. He writes that "stories are for joining the past to the future," (38). What do you think he means by this? Does it matter if the stories are true or not? Why?