

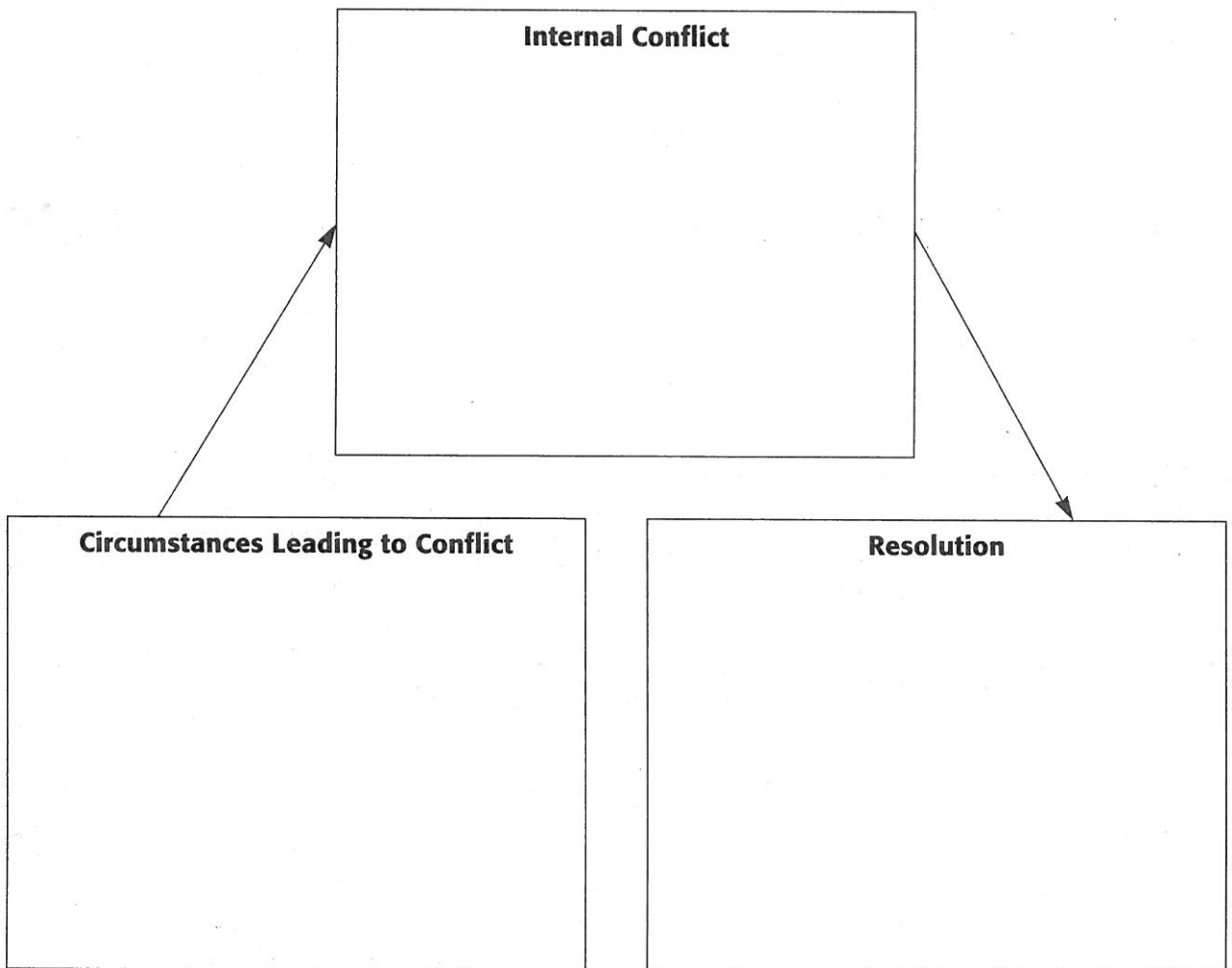
Ambush (page 1105) **Active Reading SkillBuilder****Connecting to Experience**

When reading this story about an American soldier in combat in Vietnam, use the following strategies to help connect to unfamiliar experiences that O'Brien describes: pay attention to details, try to imagine what being a soldier in combat might be like, and recall what you know about the Vietnam War or about other situations involving extended conflict. On the chart below, record the details in the story that you can connect with in some way. Also note aspects of the story with which you find it difficult to relate.

Details with Which I Can Connect	Story Aspects with Which I Cannot Connect

Ambush (page 1105)**Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Internal Conflict**

An **external conflict** involves the struggle between a character in a story and some outside force. An **internal conflict** is a struggle within a character's mind or heart. Internal conflicts may center on a decision that a character must make or on a problem that elicits contradictory behavior in the character. Fill in the diagram below. First, identify an internal conflict that the narrator of this story experiences. Then describe the circumstances that lead up to this conflict and how the narrator resolves it.



Follow Up: Do you agree with the narrator's resolution of the conflict? Why or why not?

Ambush (page 1105)**Selection Quiz**

Read over the questions and think about the events described in the story. Then answer each question in sentences or phrases.

1. What does O'Brien's daughter ask him?

2. What is the purpose of the two-man teams that O'Brien describes?

3. What does O'Brien feel and think about as he throws the grenade?

4. How does Kiowa try to justify O'Brien's action?

5. In the years following the incident, how does O'Brien, in his imagination, alter its outcome?

Ambush (page 1105)**Selection Test**

A. The narrator of this story faces two difficult moments—one involving his daughter and another involving war. In the boxes below, write notes to answer the questions about these difficult moments. (15 points each)

Difficult Moments

	The narrator's daughter asks him if he has ever killed anyone.	A young Vietnamese soldier walks by as the narrator keeps watch.
1. Why is the moment so difficult for the narrator?		
2. How does the narrator respond to this difficulty?		
3. Why does the narrator respond in that way?		

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (5 points each)

- _____ 1. The first internal conflict described by the narrator in this selection came about as a result of
- the fact that he survived the war.
 - his daughter's question.
 - the lies he had told during the war.
 - his decision to write war stories.
- _____ 2. Kiowa did not see any conflict in the death of the Vietnamese soldier because he felt that the
- narrator did what a soldier is supposed to do.
 - Vietnamese soldier was about to shoot.
 - narrator was not responsible for the soldier's death.
 - Vietnamese soldier should not have been on that trail.

- _____ 3. The act of killing the young soldier is something that the narrator clearly hopes he will one day be able to
- forget.
 - take pride in.
 - explain to his daughter.
 - apologize for.

C. Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

1. In your opinion, in the difficult situation with his daughter, does the narrator do the right thing? Give at least two reasons for your answer.
2. Identify **three** words or phrases you would use to describe the action that the narrator takes in the difficult situation with the young Vietnamese soldier. Explain each of your choices.

D. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

Do you think that soldiers in the midst of war should be held to the same moral standards as everyone else? Explain why you feel that way.