

Study Guide

1. Why is Tom so angry when he hears that Andy is enjoying Sarge's orienteering lessons?
2. Why is Andy such a pleaser?
3. How would you characterize Sarge? How does Sarge change throughout the story? How does Andy's relationship with Sarge change?
4. Explain the novel's varying points of view of the Vietnam War. Which viewpoint would you have taken, had you been living during the late 1960s? Explain why.
5. How does Oppenlander use the literary device of foreshadowing to pull the reader into the story?
6. Does Tom's death change Andy? How?
7. Define hazing and what it does to the people being hazed and to those who do the hazing.
8. Andy feels guilty several times during this novel. What instances cause Andy to feel guilty and is the guilt justified?
9. Why are Tom and Andy friends when they're coming from such different backgrounds?
10. Discuss the parallels between what's going on in the Vietnam War, in the U.S., and what's going on in the school.
11. What is/are the "different truth(s)" the title refers to? How do these relate to Andy, Sarge, Eric and Tom?
12. Discuss some of the relationships
 - a. Between Andy and his teammates, his roommate, the opposite sex and authority figures
 - b. What happens in such a close setting when people don't get along?