1. What do you make of the scene with Rat Kiley and the baby water buffalo? Why do you think Rat Kiley does what he does, and why do you think O'Brien chooses to tell the story (considering what he reveals at the end of the vignette)?
2. How do you feel about O'Brien’s interaction with the woman at the end of the vignette “How to Tell a True War Story”?
3. Why does Curt Lemon have the dentist pull a healthy tooth? In what ways does the vignette “The Dentist” pertain to the themes of shame and embarrassment that we’ve talked about in class?
4. According to O'Brien, what are the rules for a telling a true war story? What do you think Broyles Jr.’s rules would be?
5. What similarities and differences did you note between O'Brien’s and Broyles Jr.’s writing styles?
6. What reasons for men loving war, according to Broyles Jr., did you find most compelling? Which ones did you take issue with, if any, and why?
7. After reading “Why Men Love War,” explain Broyles Jr.’s relationship with war. Is the relationship complex or simple, and in what ways?
8. Does something have to be 100 percent factual to be considered true? Why/Why not?
9. Create your own question to bring to the socratic seminar. It can be something you were confused about, or something on which you want to know your peers’ opinions.