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Speaking of courage quotes

Speaking of Courage In the literary work, Speaking of Courage, Tim O'Brien highlights the trying struggle of a post-war soldier attempting desperately to integrate himself back into American society. Paul Berlin's trials and tribulations exemplify the "dominance of a citizen culture in the United States," as mentioned by Dr. Decker in class. American society does not allow for the soldiers we have sent off to fight to return as warriors. While Speaking of Courage is based on Paul's experience after the Vietnam War the effect of the citizen culture can be seen throughout history. Americans are not generally known to have an imperial, blood thirsty nature. We choose to "conquer" the world using business or other non-violent means...show more content...We see this in Speaking of Courage when Paul is remarking on how no one will speak to him about the war, even "his father would not talk." (pg. 244) It was Independence Day. "the war was over, (and for Paul) there was no place in particular to go." (pg. 243) O'Brien remarks on many of the towns folk and their preparations for the evening and yet Paul chooses to "hide" (Dr. Decker) in his fathers Chevy. One who is more comfortable spending hours driving aimlessly on a summer holiday, dwelling on medals lost rather than joining in the festivities, can certainly not be deemed fully integrated back into society. As mentioned in class "Paul's obsessive nature shows his intense need to talk about his experiences and his need for assurance that he was brave." Unfortunately, in our citizen culture, this is often not something that we are willing to listen to. Upon returning home, many of the members of our armed forces are and were viewed as spectral or haunting. Each soldier can be a reminder of something no one wants to think about: war. Speaking of Courage seriously captures what it is like for a soldier to attempt to return to their homeland and have to stop being a soldier due to the citizen culture that influences his or her society. Americans may be squeamish about war but they are ready and willing to send our Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. Winston Churchill "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." — Gloria Steinem"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right." — Rosa Parks"If you just set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing." — Margaret Thatcher"A lot of people are afraid to say what they want. That's why they don't get what they want." — Madonna"Turn your wounds into wisdom." — Oprah Winfrey"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." — Anais Nin"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." — Alice Walker"Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it by use." — Ruth Gordon"You can't just sit there and wait for people to give you that golden dream; you've got to get out there and make it happen for yourself." — Diana Ross"Stop wearing your wishbone where your backbone ought to be." — Elizabeth Gilbert"t takes a great deal of courage to stand up to your enemies, but even more to stand up to your friends." — J. K. Rowling Quotes tagged as "courage" Showing 1-30 of 5,015 "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it though no matter what." Atticus Finch — Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently." — Maya Angelou "Live the Life of Your Dreams: Be brave enough to live the life of your dreams according to your vision and purpose instead of the expectations and opinions of others." — Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart "Believe in yourself. You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine." — Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart "Everyone has talent. What's rare is the courage to follow it to the dark places where it leads." — Erica Jong "There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me." — Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice "Be brave to stand for what you believe in even if you stand alone." — Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart "For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit, stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same, there are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again." — Eric Roth, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button Screentplay "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear." — Mark Twain "When we least expect it, life sets us a challenge to test our courage and willingness to change; at such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready. The challenge will not wait. Life does not look back. A week is more than enough time for us to decide whether or not to accept our destiny." — Paulo Coelho, The Devil and Miss Prym "There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes bravery involves laying down your life for something bigger than yourself, or for someone else. Sometimes it involves giving up everything you have ever known, or everyone you have ever loved, for the sake of something greater.But sometimes it doesn't.Sometimes it is nothing more than gritting your teeth through pain, and the work of every day, the slow walk toward a better life. That is the sort of bravery I must have now." — Veronica Roth, Allegiant "You never change your life until you step out of your comfort zone; change begins at the end of your comfort zone." — Roy T. Bennett « previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... 99 100 next » Summary"Speaking of Courage"Norman Bowker returns home after the war is over. On July Fourth, he kills time by driving his father's Chevy around the local lake. He muses about his high school sweetheart, Sally, who is married. Bowker saw her recently, when she was out mowing the lawn, and decided against stopping to talk to her. But he still has the urge to show off for her; he wants to show her his seven medals and his newfound ability to tell time perfectly by the sun without looking at a clock. But she is married now, he thinks, and she has no reason to listen to him. The person Bowker misses most is his best friend, Max Arnold, with whom he used to discuss the existence of God. With Max dead and Sally married, Bowker only has his father to talk to. Bowker imagines how he would tell his father the story. He would begin with Cross's orders to set up on the banks of a river. A local woman warned against that place, but the soldiers set up there anyway. The place had a funny smell, and the soldiers soon realized it was the village shit field. Aside from the smell, it was low-lying enough to be hard to protect. When the enemy began to shoot at the platoon that night, it was all but indefensible. The mortar made the surface of the shit field move and bubble and released even more of the fishlike smell. Kiowa was shot and killed that night, and his body sunk slowly into the shit field. At this point in the story, Bowker breaks off to think about how he would describe to his father the fact that his courage had failed him. Bowker saw Kiowa get shot. He saw him go down in the shit field, face first. Bowker hung onto his boot, but started to sink in himself, weighed down by Kiowa's body. Bowker remembers that he panicked and let go of Kiowa's boot. If it hadn't been for the smell, he thinks, he could have saved Kiowa and won the Silver Star.The scene shifts back to his hometown, and Bowker takes a break from driving around the lake. He pulls up to a takeaway burger joint called Eat Mama Burgers. He fumbles during his order and doesn't understand the new slang for root beer. After eating his meal, he considers telling his war story to the person working in the burger joint. They have a momentary connection, but Bowker decides to leave instead. He drives around the lake again, for the tenth time, and decides never to tell the story to anyone. He thinks his father would tell him to focus on the seven medals he already has. He imagines that his father would be proud of him anyways. On the twelfth time around the lake, Bowker pulls over to enjoy the sunset. He gets out of the car and wades into the lake. He admires the Fourth of July fireworks, saying they "aren't bad for a small town."AnalysisThis story contrasts with the other chapters in the collection because of its almost utter lack of dialogue. The story is technically in third person, but is told almost entirely from Bowker's perspective. Bowker, broken, alone with his thoughts, is a symbol of the many veterans who could not adjust after returning home to the US. Vietnam was a deeply unpopular war, and many of the veterans felt dishonored for having fought in it. Kiowa's death is the climax, the organizing tragedy that comes up over and over again throughout the book. This intensive look at Bowker sets him up as a foil for the narrator, O'Brien. There are many doubles in this book: the Vietnamese girl and Kathleen, Jensen and Strunk, Rat Kiley and Jorgenson. In most cases they are each others' opposites, but are still linked by some sort of commonality. The young Bowker and young O'Brien were on parallel tracks that completely diverged after the war. Only then did the two become opposites: the successful young man and the aimless, damaged vet. O'Brien suggests a remaining similarity, though, by writing about how shaken he was by hearing about Bowker's experience. O'Brien recognizes that their paths could just as easily have remained the same. This is one of the only stories in the book where O'Brien indicates that he is lucky.The shit field is one of the powerful, recurrent symbols in the book. It represents the war in Vietnam, an unpleasant struggle that is difficult to get out of. The war was often called a "quagmire," and O'Brien's shit field is a vivid visceral symbol of that very stickiness. Even though the story is filtered through Bowker's memory, and retold by O'Brien, the smell and visual details of the shit field seem very grotesque, very immediate. The lake in Bowker's hometown is, in a sense, a parallel symbol: Bowker's immersion in the lake at the end of the story represents his immersion in memories of the original quagmire -- that is, of Vietnam."Notes"In "Notes," O'Brien describes how he came to write the story "Speaking of Courage." O'Brien received a letter from Bowker telling the story of "Speaking of Courage" in 1975. Bowker said he had gone through a few jobs but never found anything to do with himself. He said he didn't want to sound like "some jerkoff vet crying in his beer," but life had been hard. He said he read O'Brien's memoir, If I Die in a Combat Zone, and liked it except for the "bleeding heart political parts." (156). The letter touched O'Brien, but also shook him up. The vet had congratulated himself on adjusting so well. He had transitioned straight from Vietnam to Harvard. But receiving the letter was in fact part of the process of O'Brien figuring out just how deep his own trauma cut.O'Brien resolved to tell the story of Bowker's perspective on Kiowa's death. The writer tried to incorporate the story of the shit field into the novel he was working on, but to make it fit he took out the lake and most of Kiowa's story. Bowker was disappointed with the result. O'Brien says that he was frustrated, too.Three years later O'Brien heard from Bowker's mother. Bowker had hanged himself in the locker room of a YMCA, using a jump rope. His mother said she thought he did it that way because he was a quiet boy and "didn't want to bother anyone" (158). O'Brien was shocked.Later, O'Brien published Bowker's story on its own in a magazine before including it in [The Things They Carried]. The writer addresses the reader directly to emphasize that he made up the part about Bowker failing to save Kiowa and worrying about medals. The rest was true, O'Brien writes.AnalysisIn "Notes," the narrator speaks very candidly about his own narrative tricks. Again he calls attention to the fact that the book is fiction. O'Brien points out that it is a constructed narrative, a piece of artwork rather than a piece of "truth." O'Brien was emotionally involved with the person, Bowker, but emotional truth does not always indicate factual truth. Moreover, in this chapter, O'Brien writes as a cold observer, as a writer, about what "works" and what "doesn't work" in fiction. He worries that by moving a literary element like a lake he cannot properly mirror the shit field. He does not worry about why Kiowa is dead, as the character of O'Brien does. This literary doubling of character (narrator) and author is kept up throughout the book. One possible influence for this is Argentinian writer Jorge Borges, who also famously wrote about himself in ever-increasing mise-en-abyme patterns.But even the writer O'Brien does have certain emotions: he is anxious that the reader understand he is not trying to dishonor his fellow soldier. Because it is taken out of the context of "Speaking of Courage" and placed in a purportedly non-fictional chapter (complete with accurate dates of publication of the author's other works), Bowker's suicide has the ring of authenticity. This gives the event an even deeper impact, perhaps, than had it been included at the end of "Speaking of Courage." In O'Brien's dichotomy, it is a "happening-truth" rather than a "story-truth" (see "Good Form"). By Geoffrey James, Contributing editor, Inc.com@Sales SourceEvery entrepreneur needs courage. It takes courage to quit your day job. It takes courage to start a business. It takes courage to remain flexible. It takes courage to pivot. It's fair to say that without courage, there would no entrepreneurs.With that in mind, here are some quotes that inspire me to take risk in my life and in business: Alfred North Whitehead: "True courage is not the brutal force of vulgar heroes, but the firm resolve of virtue and reason." Aristotle: "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others." Ben Horowitz: "Hire sales people who are really smart problem solvers, but lack courage, hunger and competitiveness, and your company will go out of business." Benjamin Disraeli: "Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke." Benjamin Franklin: "How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them." Billy Graham: "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." Bruce Lee: "Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them." Catherine the Great: "I beg you take courage; the brave soul can mend even disaster." Charles Lindbergh: "Is he alone who has courage on his right hand and faith on his left hand?" Charlie Chaplin: "Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself." Chester W Nimitz: "God grant me the courage not to give up what I think is right even though I think it is hopeless." Christopher Morley: "The courage of the poet is to keep ajar the door that leads into madness." Confucius: "Face up with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of courage." Dale Carnegie: "Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." Daniel J Boorstin: "The courage to imagine the otherwise is our greatest resource, adding color and suspense to all our life." David Ben-Gurion: "Courage is a special kind of knowledge; the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared." David Letterman: "There's only one requirement of any of us, and that is to be courageous. Because courage, as you might know, defines all other human behavior." Dean Koontz: "Nothing gives us courage more readily than the desire to avoid looking like a damn fool." Earl Nightingale: "All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination." Eleanor Roosevelt: "You have to accept whatever comes and the only important thing is that you meet it with courage and with the best that you have to give." EM Forster: "Either life entails courage, or it ceases to be life." Erich Fromm: "Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties." Erma Bombeck: "It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else." EW Hornung: "Money lost, little lost. Honour lost, much lost. Pluck lost, all lost." Giacomo Casanova: "It is only necessary to have courage, for strength without self-confidence is useless." Gilbert K Chesterton: "Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die." Gilbert K Chesterton: "The paradox of courage is that a man must be a little careless of his life even in order to keep it." Harry S Truman: "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." Hermann Hesse: "People with courage and character always seem sinister to the rest." Horace: "It is courage, courage, courage, that raises the blood of life to crimson splendor. Live bravely and present a brave front to adversity." Jack Handey: "Never give up. Keep trying and pushing and struggling, even if you don't know what your goal is or why you would want to achieve it." James Freeman Clarke: "Conscience is the roof of all true courage; if a man would be brave let him obey his conscience." Jenna Jameson: "My definition of courage is never letting anyone define you." Jim Hightower: "The opposite for courage is not cowardice, it is conformity. Even a dead fish can go with the flow." JK Rowling: "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." John Quincy Adams: "Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air." John Wayne: "Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway." John Wooden: "Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts." Jonas Salk: "Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." Joseph Smith, Jr.: "Never be discouraged. If I were sunk in the lowest pits of Nova Scotia, with the Rocky Mountains piled on me, I would hang on, exercise faith, and keep up good courage, and I would come out on top." JRR Tolkien: "Courage is found in unlikely places." Lady Gaga: "My courage and my bravery at a young age was the thing I was bullied for, a kind of 'Who do you think you are?'" Lao Tzu: "Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage." Les Brown: "A lot of people do not muster the courage to live their dreams because they are afraid to die." Louis D Brandeis: "Those who won our independence believed liberty to be the secret of happiness and courage to be the secret of liberty." Margaret Mitchell: "With enough courage, you can do without a reputation." Marie Antoinette: "Courage! I have shown it for years; think you I shall lose it at the moment when my sufferings are to end?" Mark Twain: "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear." Martin Luther King, Jr.: "We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear." Maya Angelou: "Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." Mickey Mantle: "A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own. A gang is where a coward goes to hide." Miguel de Cervantes: "He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; but he that loses his courage loses all." Muhammad Ali: "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." Napoleon Bonaparte: "It requires more courage to suffer than to die." Nelson Mandela: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Have the courage to act instead of react." Ovid: "Courage conquers all things; it even gives strength to the body." Pablo Casals: "It takes courage for a person to listen to his own goodness and act on it." Pericles: "Freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it." Plutarch: "Courage consists not in hazzarding without fear; but being resolutely minded in a just cause." Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Every man has his own courage, and is betrayed because he seeks in himself the courage of other persons." Robert Louis Stevenson: "Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind, spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies." Ronald Reagan: "There are no easy answers, but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right." Ruth Gordon: "Courage is very important. Like a muscle, it is strengthened by use." Samuel Johnson: "He that fails in his endeavors after wealth or power will not long retain either honesty or courage." Sean Penn: "We've let the blades of our innocence dull over time, and it's only in innocence that you find any kind of magic, any kind of courage." Sinclair Lewis: "Pugnacity is a form of courage, but a very bad form." Socrates: "He is a man of courage who does not run away, but remains at his post and fights against the enemy." Steve Jobs: "Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." Suze Orman: "In all realms of life it takes courage to stretch your limits, express your power, and fulfill your potential." Theodore Roosevelt: "It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things." Thomas Aquinas: "The principal act of courage is to endure and withstand dangers doggedly rather than to attack them." Timothy Dalton: "Real courage is knowing what faces you and knowing how to face it." Umberto Eco: "Nothing gives a fearful man more courage than another's fear." Victor Hugo: "Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace." Winston Churchill: "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." Zig Ziglar: "Courage is on display every day, and only the courageous wring the most out of life."Inc. helps entrepreneurs change the world. Get the advice you need to start, grow, and lead your business today. Subscribe here for unlimited access.The opinions expressed here by Inc.com columnists are their own, not those of Inc.com.

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