## Alienation in "Speaking of Courage" and "Notes"

Directions: Although the theme of alienation can be traced through most of the characters in this novel because everyone has a solitary existence unlike anyone else's, the focus in these chapters is on one man whose solitude and sense of aloneness so deeply affect his life that he cannot cope with the day-to-day existence of his hometown. Answer the following questions.

moves are renowing questions.		
1)	In the twelve times that Norman Bowker drives around the lake, he thinks about three people in whom he cannot now confide. Who are they, and why can't they help?	
2)	As he drives, he sees others several times, but they pay no attention to him. Name four such individuals. Why can't they help?	
	a) How are these people different from Norman?	
3)	What would he have liked to share with someone?	
	a) Who of all these people might have understood? Why?	
	b) What hinders Norman from unburdening himself to this person and thus finding peace?	
4)	Why does Norman feel so alienated from the people of his hometown?	
5)	How does his experience at the drive-in alienate him even further? Why won't he talk to the man who says he will listen?	
5)	Contrast the clean lake in Sunset Park with the contaminated field in Vietnam. How is each representative of the people found there? Why does Norman jump in the lake?	

7)	Since these chapters imply that the people in one's hometown can't really relate to the Vietnam experience, how does each of the following cope with that situation?  a) Tim (the narrator)
	b) Norman Bowker (while driving)
	c) Norman Bowker (three years later)
8)	What is the significance of the last two sentences in the chapter "Notes"?