

On a sheet of notebook paper, answer the following questions, analyze the text using lenses, and write 1 short essay.

A. Reading Questions

1. In the list of all the things the soldiers carried, what item was most surprising? Which item did you find most evocative of the war? Which items stay with you? Explain your answers.
2. How is the idea of weight used and developed in the story? How do you, as a reader, feel reading those lists of weight? What effect does it have on you?
3. How has Jimmy changed by the end of the story? How will he be a different person from this point on? What has he learned about himself? Or to put it another way, what has he lost and what has he gained?

B. Lens Analysis

Historical/Biographical

Write a paragraph in which you apply the historical/biographical lens to the first chapter. Use the guiding questions to form your response. Use at least one example from Tim O'Brien's interview and two examples from the presentations you watched yesterday. *How does the text reflect the author's life? Is this text an extension of the author's position on issues in the author's life? How does the text embody a history of its time? Is this text a useful historical document?*

Reader Response

Write a paragraph in which you apply the reader response lens to the first chapter. Use the guiding questions to form your response. *What is your overall response to the story? What feelings do the plot, characters, and ending evoke? What do you carry with you in your own life?*

C. On Demand Essay (CHOOSE ONE)

- Imagine that you are going to war and can only take three *personal* items to carry. Write a short essay (3 paragraphs) describing each item and the reason why you want to carry it.
- Write a three-paragraph essay on an object you carry now, or one from their childhood. Describe the object in detail, the mood it evokes, and reasons for its importance.