The Things They Carried- Reading List

**Directions**: Your assignment will be to complete your reading of Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* over break. You will be responsible for reading **all of the remaining chapters**, however the ones below will require you to complete your sticky note annotations.

As you complete your annotations, remember you are going to be tracking the *specific* elements that O’Brien uses and how these elements respond to/answer the HOW questions you are being given. Though it is important that you understand what is going on in the chapters, your annotations are not simply summary—instead they are focused observations.

Some of the elements you may want to keep your eyes open for include:

Diction Narrative perspective

Paradox Punctuation

Symbol Imagery

Syntax

**Chapter to annotate:**

* “How to Tell A True War Story”

***HOW does O’Brien develop his ideas about the true nature of war?***

* ” Sweatheart of the Song Tra Bong” \*\*

***How does O’Brien’s characterization of Mary Anne change throughout the chapter?***

* “Speaking of Courage” and “Notes” (these stories are complimentary stories that can be read together)

***How does storytelling affect the characters?***

* ”In the Field”

***What are the effects of war on the characters? How do they find ways to cope with the burdens of war?***

* ”The Lives of the Dead”

***How does storytelling help O’Brien cope with death?***