**English 12 – *The Things They Carried NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hr:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Directions**: Answer the following questions, based off your own knowledge, the things we have been discussing in class, O’Brien’s interview, and the article “The Things They Carry” by Yuri Kozyrev.

1. Explore the title *The Things They Carried.* 
   1. What item(s) would you carry if you were going off to war?
   2. Why are they important things to carry?

* Item: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why Important: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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* Item: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why Important: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What does it mean to “carry” something?
2. Can you carry anything besides tangible objects? If so, give 1-2 examples.

Read the following passage: - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

*“What they carried was partly a function of rank, partly of field specialty. As a machine gunner, Henry Dobbins carried the M-60, which weighed 23 pounds unloaded, but which was almost always loaded. He also carried between 10 and 15 pounds of ammunition draped in belts across his chest and shoulders. The things they carried were largely determined by necessity. Among them were P-38 can openers, pocket knives, heat tabs, wristwatches, dog tags, mosquito repellent, chewing gum, candy, cigarettes, salt tablets, packets of Kool-Aid, lighters, matches, sewing kits, Military Payment Certificates, and two or three canteens of water. They carried the land itself-Vietnam, the place, the soil-powdery orange-red dust that covered their boots and fatigues and faces. They carried the sky. The whole atmosphere, they carried it, the humidity, the monsoons, the stink of fungus and decay, all of it,*

*they carried gravity. They carried all the emotional baggage of men who might die. Grief, terror, love, longing—these were intangibles, but the intangibles had their own mass and specific gravity, they had tangible weight. They carried shameful memories. They carried the common secret of cowardice barely restrained, the instinct to run or freeze or*

*Hide…They carried their reputations. They carried the soldier’s greatest fear, which was the fear of blushing.”*

1. Briefly (3-4 Sentences) discuss the differences in the passage between “literal” things that Tim O’Brien carried and “figurative/abstract/metaphorical” things that he and the other soldiers carried.