

You will write a 4 or 5 paragraph essay using one of the prompts provided. Do your own work and remember to document/cite any words or ideas that are not your own.

Requirements:

- Introduction paragraph (inverted pyramid)
- Author and title of the novel are mentioned in introduction paragraph
- Thesis is the last sentence in the introduction paragraph
- Two or three body paragraphs
- You must use a combination of direct quotes and paraphrase
- All quotes must be accompanied by an effective lead-in
- Conclusion paragraph restates the thesis and recaps the main ideas/arguments in the essay
- You must use present tense
- You must follow all formal, academic writing rules (no 1st/2nd person, no contractions, no "dead" words)
- Type the essay prompts at the top of the page
- Use M.L.A. Format

Prompts (choose one):

1. As shown in this novel, which is more effective in dealing with psychological trauma, fact "truth" or story "truth"? Limit your discussion to the events in the text.
2. Although a war is between nations, it is really fought by individuals who stand to lose everything in the process. Discuss this statement as illustrated by the novel.
3. Who/what is truly to blame for Kiowa's death?
4. Compare/contrast Mary Ann Bell with Tim O'Brien, focusing on their transformation during the war.
5. Choose three symbols from *The Things They Carried*. What do these items represent and how/why are they integral to the novel?

6. Explore the theme of change in *The Things They Carried*. Choose two characters to analyze and discuss how/why one changes for the better and one changes for the worse.
7. Is Norman Bowker "murdered" by his memories or by post-war society? Support your opinion with examples from the text.
8. Is Jimmy Cross an effective or an ineffective leader? Select facts from the novel that prove your position.
9. In your opinion, which character possesses the healthiest attitude toward the death and loss experienced in the war? Use examples from the novel to justify your choice.

Essay Rubric

Standard	4	3	2	1	0
Ideas & Content	Outstanding support of thesis/prompt	Strong support of thesis/prompt	Adequate support of thesis/prompt OR some plot summary	Minimal support of thesis/prompt AND/OR significant plot summary	Thesis/prompt given NOT addressed OR all plot summary
Organization & Voice	Commentary is insightful, meaningful & consistently finds connections between characters, events themes or global perspectives. Concrete details are excellent choices for topic.	Commentary is insightful and occasionally finds connections between characters, events or themes. Concrete details are well chosen for topic.	Commentary relates to issues but may judge or be obvious, superficial, simple, generic or irrelevant. Concrete details fit topic.	Commentary consists of plot summary, is weak with little opinions expressed or is illogical. Concrete details are weak or have factual errors.	Commentary and concrete details are indiscernible or nonexistent.
Format	Fully adheres to format required for essay	Mostly adheres to format required for essay	Adheres to only some of the format required for essay	Does not adhere to format required for the essay.	Required format not apparent.
Conventions	Minimal convention errors.	Some convention errors but does not impede reader.	Convention errors begin to impede reader.	Convention errors significantly detract from meaning.	Convention errors make essay near incomprehensible.