

Response Guide for Online Posts

Write a response to reading selections as a way of exploring, making meaning or preserving your thoughts and feelings. **Use at least three** of the suggestions below to guide you in your original responses to *The Things They Carried*.

- 1. Reactions and Impressions** - Record these after your first reading. These can be in any form—free writing, notes, lists, stream of consciousness, etc. Reflect and comment on why you feel as you do about specific items in the literature—characters, ideas, or any other significant element. Wait a while and read the selection again; what do you think now? Add to the reaction.
- 2. Quote** - Choose a line, phrase or word that has some significant meaning for you from the piece. Focus on noteworthy dialogue or some insightful sentence. Choose several lines in the piece if appropriate—discuss your selection as it relates to your views or application to real life. Make some connections and decisions about these quotations.
- 3. Vocabulary** - Highlight words that need interpretation, interest you, or are apparently significant word choices by the author. Highlight words that make you wonder! Find the definition of the words and discuss further thoughts on why the word was selected or how it relates to the meaning of the piece.
- 4. Questions** - Pose a few thoughtful questions about the reading that require further analysis, definition, or clarification. What questions do you need answers to immediately? Are there unresolved questions? What are your hypotheses or answers to these questions?
- 5. Smart Remarks** - Make some honest comments about the subject, characters, actions, events, or connections the piece suggests. This might be criticisms of the writer or the behavior of the characters or the style of writing. Do your remarks reveal something you can discuss further? Why are you bothered or thrilled by what you've read?
- 6. Just Some Good Writing** - Record an example of powerful writing. Why might your selection qualify as golden lines worthy to remember? The line(s) can be brilliant or shocking or confusing. What more can you say about your selection?

Adapted from material by Joe Antinarella