The beginning to the novel *The Things They Carried* sends conflicting messages. The author, Tim O'Brien, calls the novel a work of fiction, yet he also dedicates it to his platoon members and says that soldiers and civilians who have had similar experiences will see the truthfulness of the book. **Your job is to answer the following:** Why is *The Things They Carried* a realistic novel about the Vietnam War? How are the emotions that characters/soldiers have in this novel similar to emotions that actual American veterans from the Vietnam War have?

**Procedure**

- On the first day, we will go to the school library as a class to find secondary sources of information. Using LEGITIMATE secondary sources, identify three (3) emotions of real-life soldiers that are similar to the emotions in TTTC.
- You should research historical events that happened in (or connected to the Vietnam War). Suggested sources:
  - Read personal letters or memoirs written by Vietnam veterans.
- Look up big events in books on the war, such as Vietnam protests, the Tet Offensive, etc.
- Find Interviews (on Youtube, PBS, etc) of Vietnam vets sharing their experiences on the Vietnam War.

★ For each historical event, you will use three (3) pieces of research i.e. use at least 3 to pick the best quotes to incorporate into your paper: Anytime you find a direct quote or passage that shows a soldier feeling an emotion, be sure to write it down.

★ Also be sure to write down the sources of information (book or website) as you go through the research process. Be aware that you will need to cite direct quotes in your essay/paper.

- Identify three (3) emotions that the characters/ (soldiers) go through in TTTC, your primary source. (Feel free to amend your emotions and supporting evidence as we read more of the book.)
- Find passages or supporting evidence from the book for these emotions.

The tentative due date for the rough draft is March 8th… keep in mind that this should be a type-written, proofread draft that is at least 4 pages long (12 point font).

Also keep in mind that if you do not show evidence of the research process and do not pass in a rough draft, you will not be allowed to pass in the final draft for credit.