

Sample Hypertext Analysis Dialectical Journal Assignment

For our multimedia composition project, you will respond to a passage from Tim O'Brien's book *The Things They Carried* in the form of a multimedia analysis of the text in PowerPoint. To prepare for that phase, you will focus on reading one story closely and making notes about O'Brien's literary style and devices.

To give you an idea of what to look for, O'Brien often uses:

- Concrete, physical details
- Intentional sentence fragments
- Intentional short sentences alternating with longer sentences
- One-sentence paragraphs
- Rhetorical questions
- Polysyndeton (the use of a conjunction several times in one sentence)
- Metaphor
- Syntactical repetition for effect
- Allusion
- Paradox

These are the types of literary devices and elements of style that you will identify and analyze.

Step One

Read your focus story carefully. Complete **ten entries in a two-column journal**.

In your two-column journal, **focus only on literary and stylistic devices** such as those listed previously. In the right-hand column, try to identify the device, but more importantly, try to explain how the device contributes to the meaning or emotional effect of the story.

You may use the following, which contains a sample entry, or do the work on your own paper or on a computer.

What the Text Says	What I Say
"I was a coward. I went to war." (p. 65)	This paradox is completely unexpected; it goes against all traditional associations with the word <i>coward</i> and with the idea of the brave military hero. The way it is written in two short, choppy, but parallel sentences emphasizes the contrast or paradox between the two ideas and makes the reader curious for an explanation.