

Sample Hypertext Literary Analysis Assignment Sheet

For this assignment, you will create a hyperlinked PowerPoint that explores the multiple layers of meaning in a passage from *The Things They Carried*. You will use analytical skills like those you are developing with traditional written assignments, but this digital format will give you more freedom and creativity in your response. It will also allow you to perform analysis by making connections within your passage and to other types of text, just like we do in class discussion.

What You Will Do

- Work within a PowerPoint template provided by Mrs. Renner and Ms. Smith.
- Create a home slide that contains your chosen passage.
- Create links in the text that lead to other slides in the PowerPoint or to outside web pages.
- Use those links to develop an analysis and personal response to the text.
- Integrate multiple modes and a lot of creativity within your responses.

The Steps

Stage One: You will perform a close reading, just as you would for an AP essay, by identifying and responding to the elements in the following chart.

What you link	What to say about it	Examples and Suggestions
Key Words and Phrases (At least three slides)	Why are the words and phrases integral for understanding the passage? How do these words and phrases connect to the main themes of the book?	Look for words and phrases that repeat, that connect to the chapter or novel title, that develop a strong tone, and that reveal the big ideas or themes of the text.
Literary Devices (At least three slides)	What device is used here? What does it mean, and how does it contribute to the overall meaning or emotion of the passage?	See the rest of this handout for some ideas of what to look for.
Intertextual Connections (At least two slides)	Can you connect this passage to texts in other modes or media (images, music, photographs, film, and so on) to add to the meaning of this passage? Focus on connections to Tim O'Brien, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> , <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , or your classmates' Vietnam Weebly pages.	For instance, the passage might remind you of a music video or movie clip you've seen—you could link to that video and explain how it is related. Or, you might want to create a collage of images that connect in some way to the themes of the text

Questions (At least two slides)	What new questions do the phrasing, subject matter, and images bring up for you? Direct these questions to the author or to the ether. Attempt to answer these questions through your analysis of the passage's literary elements.	Ask questions to O'Brien about why or how he wrote something the way he did. Ask questions about how O'Brien's experiences connect to his text Ask big questions about life and human nature that arise from the text
Personal Reactions (At least two slides—one per partner)	What is your emotional or thoughtful response to various elements in the passage?	Include a written response (journal, letter, informal musings, story, and so on). Include an original creative response (artwork, collage, music, musical mashup, recorded narrative, original video, and so on).

Stage Two: You will add a synthesis slide that brings together your analysis with final thoughts about the text's themes and O'Brien's overarching storytelling techniques. More instructions on this Tuesday.

Requirements

- Minimum of twelve slides that link to your main passage (see chart for breakdown)
- At least five embedded images, incorporated into any of the slides
- At least two embedded video or audio clips, incorporated into any of the slides

Notes

You have more freedom with design than you did on the Weebly and will be evaluated accordingly. Carefully consider background colors and images, fonts for text and titles, layouts, graphics or images, sound, and how all of these elements work together to organize information and provide an additional means for analysis of your passage. Just as you did in the Weebly, you need to use these design elements to develop a strong and coherent tone for your own hypertext that connects to the passage and your interpretation of the passage.

Also, you are encouraged to make as much of your work original as possible, including images, sound, video, and so on. For example, you might create a musical mash-up or speak and record an original narrative. The more creativity the better—the sky is the limit!

Helpful Resources

One of the major categories you will analyze is literary devices, or elements of writing style. In addition to the standard list of devices, O'Brien often uses the following:

- *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, but this is by no means a comprehensive list. Call on all the resources you have gathered during this course to select the literary techniques you will analyze.