The Things They Carried Vignette Analysis

Due: End of class Friday (01/11)

1. Analyze the first vignette (p. 1-25) in Tim O’Brien’s novel The Things They Carried. Your analysis should include the following:
   - **Annotations** of the provided first seven pages of the vignette
   - 15 dialectical journal entries over the first vignette
   - **Socratic Seminar Questions** 1x Level One Question, 3x Level Two questions, and 2x Level Three Questions over the first vignette

   **Examples of rhetorical devices in the first vignette (there are more than this, however):**
   
   asyndeton, polysyndeton, anaphora, parallel structure, oxymoron, pun, epanalepsis, anaphora, parenthesis, diction, syntax, periodic v. loose structure, jargon, colloquialism, zeugma, symbolism

   **Example of an acceptable dialectical journal entry:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page # and Quote</th>
<th>Paraphrase</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Ted Lavender, who was scared, carried…” (O’Brien 2, 6)</td>
<td>In two different sections of the first vignette, O’Brien introduces Lavender, interrupts with an appositive phrase that characterizes him as fearful, and follows the descriptor with different items that Lavender was carrying.</td>
<td><em>Repetition and Parenthesis</em> Despite being four pages removed from each other, the structures of these sentences are incredibly similar. Reinforcing this characterization, immediately followed by the mention of his being shot in the head and then mention of what Lavender was carrying, begins to develop themes of fear and its relationship to war. Ted Lavender is the first character to die, and the mention of him being “scared” in parenthesis lends itself to the relationship between his fear and his desire to equip himself against death. He carries tranquilizers and marijuana to numb his fear, and excess (20 pounds) of ammo, as though the additional ammunition will protect him in the war. What Tim O’Brien is immediately showing us in this vignette is that war does not discriminate. It doesn’t matter how fearful, how alert, or how prepared an individual is, the violent chaos of war will arbitrarily take who it chooses.</td>
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2. When you’ve completed your analysis, you will move on to the following assignment:
   - Mimicking the style of writing Tim O’Brien uses on pages 2-3 (“The things they carried...took him away”) write a passage comparable in length (roughly 400 words) that either that tells the story of the things that you and the people in your life “carry.” In your passage, you must utilize, highlight, and label three rhetorical devices that Tim O’Brien uses in the model passage.
     - **Please Note:** Being that no one in this class has been to war, it’s unlikely you’ll have comparable experiences. Therefore, the objective is not to be appropriative of O’Brien’s traumatic experiences, but rather practice utilizing the devices that he uses (diction, syntax, polysyndeton, asyndeton, etc.) to become more familiar with the application of the devices as well as to exercise some creativity.