Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Social Lit.—Silver/Haskel *The Things They Carried*: Chapter 16 (149-154)

**Personal Writing**

“By telling stories, you objectify your own experience. You separate it from yourself. You pin down certain truths. You make up others. You start sometimes with an incident that truly happened, like the night in the shit field, and you carry it forward by inventing incidents that did not in fact occur but that nonetheless help to clarify and explain” (152).

|  |
| --- |
| **Compose a chapter about a moment in your life that holds some type of special meaning.**  **Consider the point you want to get across in your writing. Ask yourself, what life lesson did you learn? How did this moment change you/your perspective on things? What feeling and knowledge do you want people to walk away with after reading your story?**  **While you can exaggerate, add, and change things, your story should be rooted in truth. The fictional aspects of the story should be included *only* because they help to express your point.** |

Remember, O’Brien wrote many drafts of “Speaking of Courage” before feeling that it accurately expressed all the messages that he wanted to convey: “I was afraid to speak directly, afraid to remember—and in the end the piece had been ruined by failure to tell the full and precise truth about our night in the shit field” (153). **Don’t be afraid! Tell your truth, even through the fictional aspects of your story.**

**Brainstorming**

|  |
| --- |
| Incident:  Message(s) you want to convey:  Specific aspects of the story that are necessary to include: |