Section 1: Reading Analysis Chapters 1-9

1. What does Lieutenant Cross carry in his mouth to remind him of Martha?
   A. A small gold chain
   B. A pebble from the beach
   C. His dog tag
   D. Her class ring

2. Who is killed while high on tranquilizers, out in the woods, during a tunnel raid?
   A. Curt Lemon
   B. Rat Kiley
   C. Ted Lavender
   D. Norman Bowker

3. What is Lieutenant Cross’s reaction to Ted Lavender’s death?
   A. He blames himself for failing as a leader, and vows to do better
   B. He blames Martha for his failure, and stops writing her letters
   C. He tries to kill himself, but Tim saves him
   D. He is demoted from Lieutenant and transferred to another post

4. O’Brien’s repeated imagery of “tangible” versus “intangible” things that the soldiers carry in Chapter 1 is significant because it
   A. Emphasizes that intangible things like fear and memories can be much heavier than tangible things like guns or helmets
   B. Reveals that soldiers in Vietnam were asked to carry very heavy things, which often taxed their physical bodies tremendously
   C. Emphasizes that the tangible things like guns or helmets were much heavier than the emotions of the soliders
   D. Draws a comparison between today’s war’s full of technology, and the Vietnam war, when everything from radios to ammunition were bigger and heavier

5. The conversation between Cross and O’Brien at the end of “Love” begins to reveal that
   A. Cross is still in love with Martha
   B. O’Brien may not be a reliable narrator
   C. Curt Lemon is going to die in later chapters
   D. Intangible things are heavier than tangible things

6. When Azar kills Lavender’s puppy in “Spin”, he explains to the others that he is “just a boy!” This explanation and Azar’s actions show the theme of
   A. Death
   B. Allegory
   C. Truth vs. Fiction
   D. The Effect of Violence
7. Why do the soldiers enjoy watching the checkers game?
   A. It has a clear winner and loser, unlike Vietnam
   B. It has a clear winner and loser, just like Vietnam
   C. It is confusing and chaotic, unlike Vietnam
   D. It is confusing and chaotic, like Vietnam

8. Chapter 3, “Spin”, foreshadows the death of which character?
   A. Lee Strunk
   B. Azar
   C. Curt Lemon
   D. Tim O’Brien

9. Which is more important to Tim O’Brien, “story truth” or “happening truth”?
   A. Story truth
   B. Happening truth
   C. Don’t pick this one
   D. Seriously it’s A or B, go back up there

10. In Chapter 4, “On The Rainy River”, what is O’Brien running away from?
    A. His parents
    B. His draft notice
    C. His girlfriend
    D. College

11. Tim O’Brien describes Elroy Berdahl as the person who saved his life. Why?
    A. He took him to the edge of the Canadian border and offered him a chance to evade the draft.
    B. He gave him $200.00 as an emergency fund to take to Canada.
    C. He gave him the space and time he needed to think about the war, the draft, and his true feelings all without ever saying a word about dodging the draft or the war.
    D. He told him to do what he believed in, stand up for himself and to follow his heart.

12. Tim O’Brien says “I was a coward. I went to war.” What does he mean by this?
    A. He didn’t have the courage to run like he truly wanted to.
    B. He was scared go to the war.
    C. He felt that soldiers who fought in the war were cowards.
    D. He felt that he would be a coward when the time came to fight for his country.

13. Throughout the entire novel, O’Brien (the narrator) never cries
    A. True
    B. False
    C. I have no idea
    D. Just guess, you’ll be fine
14. Dave Jensen and Lee Strunk get in a fight over
   A. A gun
   B. A jack knife
   C. A playboy magazine
   D. A picture of Strunk’s girlfriend

Read the following lines to answer numbers 15-16.

Strunk frowned at the sky. He passed out again, then woke up and said, "Don’t kill me."

"I won’t," Jensen said.
"I’m serious."
"Sure."
"But you got to promise. Swear it to me—swear you won’t kill me."
Jensen nodded and said, "I swear," and then a little later we carried Strunk to the dustoff chopper. Jensen reached out and touched the good leg. "Go on now," he said. Later we heard that Strunk died somewhere over Chu Lai, which seemed to relieve Dave Jensen of an enormous weight.

15. Why is Strunk worried that Jensen will kill him?
   A. He thinks Jensen is still seeking revenge over their fight
   B. He made Jensen promise to kill him if he was ever paralyzed or lost his legs
   C. He knows that Jensen wants to get revenge and kill him
   D. He is hallucinating and thinks Jensen is a hitman

16. Which BEST describes why Jensen relieved that Strunk died in the helicopter?
   A. They both would have had to live the rest of their lives knowing they didn’t have the courage to follow through with their promise
   B. He knew that Strunk was in a lot of pain and it was good that he was finally at peace.
   C. Strunk’s worst nightmare was being in a wheelchair, so being alive would have been worse for him than dying.
   D. Jensen would have had to call Strunk’s mom and dad and he didn’t want to be faced with that task.

17. Which story does O’Brien repeat over and over in “How To Tell A True War Story”?
   A. Rat Kiley shooting a baby buffalo
   B. Azar killing Lavender’s puppy with a land mine
   C. Four guys going down a trail, a grenade sailing out, and one guy takes the blast to save the rest
   D. Curt Lemon stepping on a land mine and getting blown into a tree
18. Why does Rat Kiley torture the baby water buffalo?
   A. He hates animals
   B. He is letting out his anger about his best friend dying
   C. He wants to destroy something Vietnamese
   D. He wants to spend his bullets wisely

19. Why is O'Brien's account of Curt Lemon's death not 100% reliable?
   A. He was not actually there
   B. He has told the story so many times he always makes up new parts
   C. He made it up
   D. He looked away when the bomb went off, so he only knows how it "seemed"

20. What do the soldiers in “Listening Post” do when they get back from their mission?
   A. They do not speak at all
   B. They tell the Colonel to bomb the entire mountain
   C. They tell the story to Mitchell Sanders
   D. They tell the story to Tim O'Brien

21. When O'Brien writes, “And in the end, of course, a true war story is never about war,” what does he believe a true war story is about?
   A. The true, hard facts and statistics about the atrocities of a specific war
   B. Friends, soldiers, and the true courage of men at war.
   C. Not the absolute truth or the point, but how the story makes you feel and what it teaches you.
   D. Death, violence, and the destruction of American Imperialism.

22. Which of the following characters is definitely still alive by the end of “Sweetheart”?
   A. Curt Lemon
   B. Ted Lavender
   C. Mary Anne Bell
   D. Rat Kiley

23. Where is Mary Anne discovered at the end of “Sweetheart”?
   A. In the tent with the Green Berets, dancing to music and wearing a necklace of tongues
   B. In the tent with the Green Berets, wearing tribal clothing and wearing a necklace of teeth
   C. In Eddie Diamonds’s bunk with Mark Fosse’s flashlight
   D. In Rat Kiley’s medical tent, passed out drunk with a Vietnamese soldier

24. At the end of “Sweetheart”, Mark Fosse ____________________ and Mary Anne__________________.
   A. Is released on medical leave.........marries him
   B. Is released on medical leave.........is never found in the jungle.
   C. Searches for Mary Anne...............goes home but never marries Fosse.
   D. Gives up searching for Mary Anne...............marries Rat Kiley.
Section 2: Concepts & Analysis

For each quote or description below, choose whether it is an example of A) Juxtaposition B) Irony or C) Allegory.

25. “War is nasty; war is fun. War is thrilling; war is drudgery. War makes you a man; war makes you dead.”

26. “They carried the soldier’s greatest fear, which was the fear of blushing. Men killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to.”

27. Rat Kiley killing the baby water buffalo after Curt Lemon is killed.

28. “I was a coward. I went to the war.”

29. “He hated her. Yes, he did. He hated her. Love, too, but it was a hard, hating kind of love.”

30. When Mary Anne comes to Vietnam, she turns into an incredible skilled soldier, while Mark Fosse breaks down, cries, and eventually has to leave.

31. “”But the guys don’t say zip. They just look at him for a while, sort of funny like, sort of amazed, and the whole war is right there in that stare. It says everything you can’t ever say. It says, man, you got wax in your ears. It says, poor bastard, you’ll never know—wrong frequency—you don’t even want to hear this. Then they salute the fucker and walk away, because certain stories you don’t ever tell.”

32. Mary Anne’s transformation from pretty, prudish girl into a deadly, jungle-crazed killing machine.

33. “But a few minutes later, when the dentist called his name, Lemon stood up and walked into the tent. It was over fast. He fainted even before the man touched him.”

34. “That’s a true story that never happened.”

35. Putting the chapters “Enemies” and “Friends” next to each other in the book.
Section 3: Short Answer

1. List the chapters in The Things They Carried in the order in which they occur chronologically.

2. Choose one of the stories below and in a paragraph, explain the story’s allegorical significance. Be sure to include the definition of allegory, what the “surface story” is, what the “allegory” and "symbolism" is, and which theme is expressed in the allegory. You may choose
   1. Rat Kiley’s torture of the baby buffalo after Curt Lemon's death
   2. The “Listening Post”
   3. Mary Anne’s transformation in “The Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong”