



Happy Friday! and happy first of spring!

Boy, it's been a hard first week and you all have shown such resilience and grit - Dr. Flugum better order a whole truckload of grit coins for the way students have dealt with the uncertainty and distress of this season.

I hope you will get outside as much as the pollen permits and soak up some of the healing sunshine. Let's take a full-stop break this weekend. No Things They Carried, no AP exams, no anything school related for this class. Take a minute to breathe and try to have a bit of fun.

Remember that you can add comments to this doc if you have questions

I would like to say how proud I am of you all - the discussion boards, FlipGrids, and Zoom meetings have been so inspiring to me - both because of the nuance and complexity of your thinking and because of the way that you all have risen to the occasion in this strange moment. **Oh yes, the angels are weeping.** I have thoroughly enjoyed reading and hearing your thoughts and to see the way that you are interacting with one another -- from a social distance. 😊

The test next week will be open-book, analytical, and you will have two days to complete it -- I will send it on Tuesday and you will submit it to turnitin.com on Thursday. Please let me know if you have concerns about that timeline or other obligations. I am going to keep it as short as possible -- you should not expect it to take all two days to complete it, but I want to be as flexible as possible. I will ask you to connect details across the book and consider how the "thread" connecting those details advances one of O'Brien's arguments and exemplifies his rhetorical strategy in the book. The length of what you should produce is far short of an essay, but you should rise to the occasion for the depth of thought that you would put into an essay.

There is a lot of uncertainty about grades right now. Because of the struggles students across the county are facing in terms of food insecurity, job loss, family obligations, etc., the county advised teachers that the work completed during this time will be **graded but unweighted** in the gradebook. There is not much more information than that right now. But I would guess as we near the end of March that there will need to be firmer plans in place. My hope would be that those of you that take advantage of the chaos of this time and submit good work that I will be able to weight those grades, and those of you that struggle with the uncertainty of this time will have a window of time to complete assignments, and then the assignments will be weighted. My

personal goal is to give you every opportunity to do your best and know that you are battling the anxieties of a world that changed overnight.

Let's plan to pop online on Monday to review for the test and to talk about your thoughts and concerns.

Today, I think you can take a moment to breathe, work on the vocab project. Take a look at the resources that I posted for Things They Carried, but there will be no need to do a lot of preparation work to study for the test because you can avail yourself of those resources as you take the test.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone - I hope you get a chance to do something fun and take your mind off how weird and anxious all this is.

XO, KBo