NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PER. \_\_\_\_\_ “**Speaking of Courage” and “Notes”**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Today you will read the chapters “Speaking of Courage” and “Notes” aloud in your groups. Figure out who will read each of the following sections aloud. (Yes, some of you will read more than once.) Then, after you read each section, pause and fill in the corresponding square in the note catcher below.

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| --- | --- |
| Page Range  Paperback/Hardback | Name of person who will read these pages aloud: |
| 131-134 / 137-141 |  |
| 135-138 / 141-145 |  |
| 139-140 / 145-147 |  |
| 141-143 / 147-150 |  |
| 144-145 / 150-153 |  |
| 146-147 /153-154 |  |

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| Pages **131-134** (Hardback 137-141)  Draw a picture of the setting for this story and label the different parts of your picture. | Pages **135-138** (Hardback 141-145)  What is the significance of the different medals in this chapter? You can draw pictures and/or write your response. |
| Pages **139-140** (Hardback 145-147)  Why does he write about a particular smell? You can draw pictures and/or write your response. | Pages **141-143** (Hardback 147-150)  Draw a picture that represents the weather in this part of the chapter. |
| Pages **144-145** (Hardback 150-153)  Make a list of the words from the conversation through the intercom at “Mama Burger” that make it sound like a conversation between two soldiers. | Pages **146-148** (Hardback 153-154)  Explain the significance of this quote as it applies to Norman Bowker:  “He wished he could’ve explained some of this. How he had been braver than he ever thought possible, but how he had not been so brave as he wanted to be” (O’Brien, 147). |

Now read the chapter titled “Notes” silently to yourself.

Write a brief, 3-5 sentence summary of this chapter:

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Review the themes in the novel:

**Mortality and Death** - The threat, even expectation, of death hangs over all of the soldiers throughout the novel, and multiple deaths occur throughout the novel. The thoughts of the soldiers and the narrative itself circle around and around these soldiers deaths, trying and failing over and over to process and understand what happened, and showing how the deaths impact the thoughts and actions of the soldiers who remain both during and after the war.

**Social Obligation** - O'Brien often focuses on how the men in his stories, even if they volunteered to fight, joined the army because of the unspoken pressure to fulfill their obligations as citizens and soldiers. These social obligations range from that of wider society (government, city/town) and narrows to the nuclear (family, friends, personal reflection).

**Storytelling and Memory** - Storytelling in *The Things They Carried* operates on multiple levels: at the level of the book itself, the stories within stories, and the reflections on the value of these stories both in the context of the war and then post-war. The collection further explores the very role and purpose of "war stories," and how they can be told "correctly" and how to tell whether or not one is "true." The author clearly believes that stories have the power to give an entire life to those who have passed on.

Of the three themes described here, which theme do you think most applies to the chapters “Speaking of Courage” and “Notes”? Explain your answer using specific details from the text to support your ideas.

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