Vocabulary List With Definitions

“The Things They Carried”
elusive – difficult to express
dictated – commanded
intransitive – not taking a direct object
insecticide – a substance used for killing insects
insignia – a badge identifying military rank
volition – the power of using one’s will
lingo – vocabulary used by a particular group of people
mortification – extreme embarrassment or shame
negligence – failure to take proper care in doing a task
impose – to force something to be accepted by another

“On the Rainy River”
discredit – harm the good reputation of someone or something
conviction – firmly held belief
maneuver – move skillfully or carefully
isolated – far away from other places or people
acquiescence – reluctant acceptance without protest
gentry – people of high social class
rupture – an instance of breaking or bursting suddenly
pretense – a false display of feelings or intentions
monotonous – lacking in variety; dull
impassive – not showing emotion

“How to Tell a True War Story”
comrade – fellow soldier
rectitude – morally correct behavior or thinking
credibility – the quality of being trusted
preceded – came before
symmetries – consistencies; pleasing proportions
illumination – lighting; glare
implacable – relentless; unstoppable
proximity – closeness
concord – harmony between people and groups
anarchy – state of disorder due to absence of authority

“Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong”
superlatives – exaggerations
imprecision – lacking exactness
subdued – quiet and restrained
seduced – persuaded into an action that is foolish
digressions – temporary shifts away from the subject being discussed
encompassed – included
speculation – the forming of a theory without solid evidence
inquiry – the act of asking questions to get information
transaction – an interaction or exchange between people
“Speaking of Courage”
affluent – wealthy
circumference – distance around something
recede – move back or away from a previous position
valor – courage
viaduct – a long bridge-like structure with arches that carries a road across a valley
fatigue – extreme tiredness or exhaustion
flourishes – gestures or actions intended to get attention
prosperous – financially successful
intercom – electrical device allowing two-way communication
reluctantly – unwillingly

“In the Field”
probes – devices used for exploring, testing, or obtaining something
coordinates – a group of numbers used to indicate position
municipal – relating to a city or town
tactically – carefully planned to gain an advantage
salvaged – rescued or preserved from loss or destruction
traction – grip for giving power to pull something over a surface
happenstance – coincidence
submerged – completely covered; below the surface
condolences – expressions of sympathy to family and friends on the occasion of someone’s
death
munitions – military weapons and ammunition

“The Ghost Soldiers”
vivid – distinct; bright; clearly perceptible
fraternity – group of men sharing a common interest
credentials – personal achievements and qualifications
terrain – ground or landscape
levitate – to float or rise into the air
distorted – warped or garbled
comportment – proper behavior
atrocities – an extremely cruel act involving violence or injury
resonance – the ability to cause an emotional reaction
lucid – thinking clearly

“The Lives of the Dead”
chronologies – listings of events or dates in order of their occurrences
illusion – a deceptive appearance or impression
perspective – attitude or point of view regarding a subject
animated – full of life or excitement
device – invent through creative thought
deception – lying
spectator – an observer or witness
translucent – allowing light to pass through
revive – to bring back to life
inhabit – to live in