11.4.1 Mid-Unit Assessment

Text-Based Response

Your Task: Based on your reading and analysis of "On the Rainy River" from *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, write a well-developed, text-based response to the following prompt:

> *Choose a specific part of the text and analyze how it contributes to the overall structure and meaning of the text.*

Your response will be assessed using the 11.4.1 Mid-Unit Text Analysis Rubric.

Guidelines:

Be sure to:

- Read the prompt closely
- Address all elements of the prompt in your response
- Organize your ideas in a cohesive and coherent manner
- Maintain a formal style of writing
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support your analysis
- Follow the conventions of standard written English

CCSS: RL.11-12.5, W.11-12.2.a-f

Commentary on the Task:

This task measures RL.11-12.5 because it demands that students:

- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of the text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

This task measures W.11-12.a-f because it demands that students:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
    - Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
    - Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
    - Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
    - Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.
    - Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
    - Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).