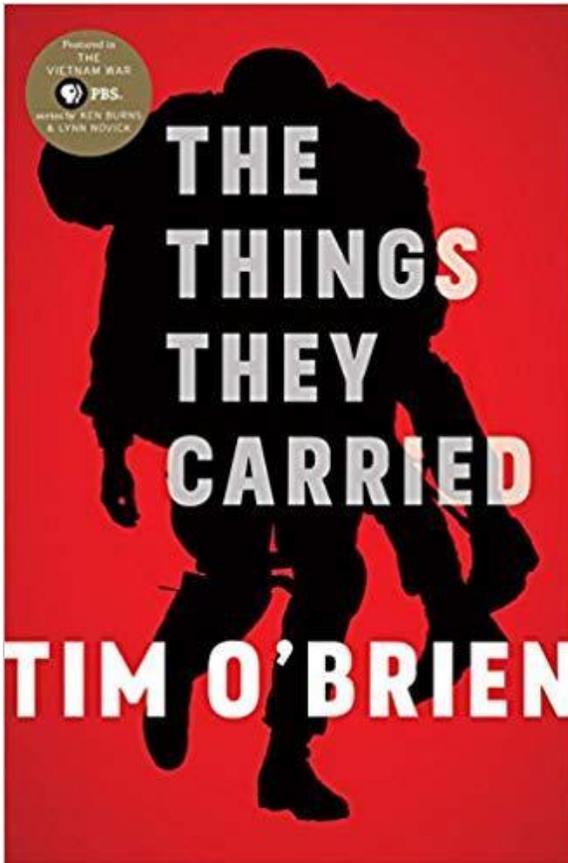


**Summer Reading Assignment  
for Juniors taking Advanced Composition and/or American Literature  
2022-2023 School Year**

**Step One:** Read *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. You can get this book from any bookstore or library: publishing details are available below. There may be limited copies available to check out from BSM.



About this book: *The Things They Carried* (1990) is a semi-autobiographical work on the Vietnam War, comprised of interwoven short-stories informed by Tim O'Brien's own experiences.

Paperback: 233 pages  
Publisher: Mariner Books (2009)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 0544309766  
ISBN-13: 978-0544309760  
ASIN: 0618706410  
Kindle edition:  
Audiobook edition

**Step Two:** Bring your completed assignment on the first day of class.

The assignment has **two** different parts:

- **Annotating a Passage**
- **Writing about literature**

**1. Annotate a passage**

Annotate a two-page selection from *The Things They Carried*. Choose a part that you find to be significant or compelling. Since you may not be able to write on the pages of your book, you may want to copy or scan your pages and annotate a printed copy or use Preview, Microsoft Word or GoogleDocs to annotate a digital copy.

Need a refresher on annotation? These tutorials may be helpful:

[Reading Actively: How to Annotate a Text](#)  
from the University of Texas at Austin

<<https://youtu.be/CNr-E8g35nI>>

[Close Reading a Text and Avoiding Pitfalls](#)  
from Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL)

<[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject\\_specific\\_writing/writing\\_in\\_literature/writing\\_about\\_fiction/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/writing_about_fiction/index.html)>

- Show evidence of a **close reading** (making connections, making predictions, asking questions, clarifying, defining, summarizing, responding, etc.)
- Make special note of items in the **following categories**
  - Use of language
  - Use of figurative language
  - Character development
  - Plot development

**2. Analyzing and writing about the text: Choose one of the topics below**

● **Writing Style and Use of Language**

Review the first story in the book, "The Things They Carried," seeking examples of the way O'Brien uses language to create tone and meaning. Choose **two** of the elements of style and tone—**details, diction, imagery, and figurative language**—and find examples of them in the reading. Examine how these examples, both individually and together, contribute to the meaning of the chapter. Then write a well-formed paragraph, exploring the use of language in the novel.

● **Themes**

For one of the themes below, find at least **three** quotations that represent or are an example of that theme in the novel. Then write a well-formed paragraph on that theme, exploring its presence in the novel and making connections to your own life/contemporary society. Include the page number in parentheses immediately after each quotation as per MLA style. Please note: the challenge is to give **your** understanding of that theme, not the internet's.

*The Things They Carried* Summer Assignment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Theme</b>             | <b>Quotations (page numbers)</b> | <b>Context of the quote</b> | <b>Connection to this theme</b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>The legacy of war</b> |                                  |                             |                                 |
| <b>Truth and story</b>   |                                  |                             |                                 |
| <b>Loss and regret</b>   |                                  |                             |                                 |
| <b>Fear and courage</b>  |                                  |                             |                                 |