

**11TH GRADE ENGLISH REQUIRED SUMMER READING**  
**Grade-Level**

**Students attending Muss:**

**Please read and bring with you:**

*The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien (See below for study questions.)

**Please order and bring with you (to read later):**

*Death of a Salesman*, by Arthur Miller - please order ISBN-13 978-0140481341

*The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien [Note: Please get the physical book, not the electronic version, and bring it to class.]

**Something to think about:** in Vietnam, the war is often referred to as “The American War” or “The Resistance War Against America”. Although the conflict was rooted between the communist North Vietnam (Viet Cong) and South Vietnam (the ARVN), which had a corrupt government supported by the West, Americans entered into the conflict as a means of fighting back against communism, which those in power feared would spread across Asia. Essentially, this was a war of ideals. (this is, of course, a huge simplification)

Often, in war, the only thing that can motivate you to fight for a cause is to dehumanize your enemy, to stop seeing them as people and more as objects. A byproduct of this may result in seeing yourself as this object, or collection of objects, too. But to protect ourselves when we commit a horrendous act, we often justify what we've done.