

**Summer Assignment**  
***The Things They Carried***  
**by Tim O'Brien**  
**Due: August 18, 2020 by 10:30 AM**

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Grade! For your summer assignment, you will do the following:

1. Read *The Things They Carried*. Because we will be using this novel in our first unit, we suggest that you buy your own copy so that you can annotate it during the summer and during the workshop.
2. Tim O'Brien's acclaimed novel is about the Vietnam War and the many compelling issues about the human condition related to each character's experiences during and after the war.
3. Choose a character that you find interesting and that evokes a strong emotion in you, either positively or negatively. Write a paragraph for each topic below and integrate 2-3 quotes to support your statements. Textual evidence can be quotes said by the character or quotes about the character said by others. ***This is not an essay; you are writing 4 separate paragraphs. Total, this will be approximately two-three pages.***
  - a. Physical Description
  - b. Personality Traits
  - c. Feelings/Emotions
  - d. Actions
4. You will submit your paragraphs to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), which will scan your work for plagiarism, so BE CAREFUL and HONEST! **The assignment must be submitted to turnitin.com by August 18, 2020 at 10:30 am.**

Class ID: 25036780

Enrollment Key/Password: corebaby

5. Bring in a paper copy also on the first day of school.
6. Be prepared for a **closed book reading exam on the first day of school!** The reading exam will be multiple choice.
7. You may email Mr. Saavedra with any questions and he will respond when he is available. Email: [tsaavedra@corebaby.org](mailto:tsaavedra@corebaby.org)

We look forward to having you next year! Have a great summer!

## CHARACTERS

Tim O'Brien- the narrator

Lieutenant Jimmy Cross- responsible for Alpha Company; loves Martha

Mitchell Sanders- one of the soldiers; decent and kind

Kiowa- Tim's closest friend in Vietnam

Norman Bowker- a soldier whose pain from the war is shown after the war (Speaking of Courage)

Henry Dobbins- one of the soldiers; decent and kind

Rat Kiley- the medic; he tells the story of Mary Anne (Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong)

Curt Lemon- the soldier who dies playing with a grenade

Ted Lavender- another soldier who dies

Lee Strunk- a soldier whose nose is broken by Dave Jensen

Dave Jensen- a soldier who feels guilty for breaking Strunk's nose

Azar- a soldier who is cruel and inhumane

Bobby Jorgenson- the medic who replaces Rat Kiley

Elroy Berdahl- the owner of the Tip Top Lodge (On the Rainy River)

Kathleen- O'Brien's daughter- goes with him back to Vietnam (Field Trip)

Mary Anne- Mark Fossie's high school girlfriend (Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong)

Mark Fossie- the medic in Rat Kiley's story; arranges for Mary Anne to come to Vietnam (Sweetheart...)

Linda- O'Brien's first childhood girlfriend

## **Glossary of Military Terms Used in the Story**

**AO:** Area of operation

**PFC:** Private First Class

**RTO:** Radio and Telephone Operator

**PRC-25:** Pronounced “prick 25”

**M & Ms:** Medical Supplies and Morphine

**Psy Ops:** Psychological Warfare Operations

**R & R:** Rest and Relaxation

**SOP:** Standard Operation Procedure

**US KIA:** United States Killed in Action

**USO:** United Service Organization (volunteer entertainment and morale)

**VC:** Vietcong