

Summer 2021

Junior Honors Summer Reading

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

If you have any questions, please email me at annatheresa.montague@wcs.edu.

Directions: Please purchase a print copy of *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. We will be following along with the paperback edition from this link:

<http://www.amazon.com/Things-They-Carried-Tim-OBrien/dp/0618706410>

Please try to get this edition. It is the edition I will be using to guide our lessons and conversations. A different edition will mean a difference in page numbers; this could make staying on track during a lesson needlessly frustrating. Having the same edition will better facilitate your class discussion and collaboration experience. In addition, kindly purchase a print copy and not a digital copy. Since we will be annotating the novel, it's necessary to have a print copy to make physical notes on the page.

We all carry things: physical, emotional, and mental. Entering your junior year, you're probably carrying a lot. Perhaps you're carrying a heavy course load, high parental expectations, or hidden, emotional burdens. The author, Tim O'Brien, explores these things we all carry not through the eyes of a student but the lens of a soldier. Since junior year focuses on American literature, this book beautifully ties together American history and story and fits our purposes precisely. Through it, we'll begin a discussion of the things we bear and our expectations for the year ahead.

You will have a written assignment from this book.