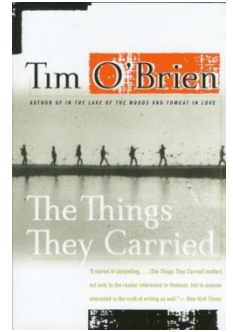


The Things They Carried: summer reading assignment

As you read, please complete reading reflections after each section of the novel (indicated below). This assignment encourages you to become more thoughtful about and connected to what you are reading. In other words, what emerges from the text for you?



Each time you complete a section, consider your reaction to the book. Then let your mind and emotions go and reflect on what you've read. Perhaps there are certain questions that you begin to ask. Write them down, ponder, and explore. Maybe certain quotations stick out to you. Why? Copy the lines from the book and explain what they mean to you. What does this quotation have to say about the work as a whole? What do you think about the narrator, the other characters, their decisions and feelings, and the ideas the author introduces? If necessary, use the prompts on the opposite side of this sheet to get started.

The reflections don't need to be formal, essay-type writing; just create a personal reaction to anything about the characters and/or the events in the book.

NOTE 1:

Do NOT write summaries of the book's plot. This assignment is not a test of your recall of the book's events; it is meant instead to reflect your personal interaction with the text.

NOTE 2:

Your journal should consist of at least **FOUR** reflections (more are welcome) of *at least* one extended paragraph (10-12 sentences) each. Each one should express your thoughts about, insights into, and reactions to the chapter sections indicated below.

Entry 1: The Things They Carried
Love
Spin
On the Rainy River
Enemies
Friends

Entry 3: The Man I Killed
Ambush
Style
Speaking of Courage
Notes

Entry 2: How to Tell a True War Story
The Dentist
Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong
Stockings
Church

Entry 4: In the Field
Good Form
Field Trip
The Ghost Soldiers
Night Life
The Lives of the Dead

DUE:

A-day: Thursday, September 8

B-day: Friday, September 9

JOURNAL PROMPTS

Not sure how to begin to your response to the reading? Try one of these starting points.

I feel sorry for _____ because....

I would like to meet _____ because....

I really don't like....

I like the way the author...

I wonder if....

My favorite part has been....

I felt _____ when....

Why did....? My guess is that....

If I _____ I think I would have....

I never would _____ because....

I could identify with....

I really disliked....

I agree with....

I disagree with....

I was confused when _____ because...