

## 11TH GRADE ENGLISH REQUIRED SUMMER READING

Grade-Level

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

This book is a collection of short stories; please read the two short stories, “**The Things They Carried**” (the first one in the book) and “**The Man I Killed**” (later in the book). You also must write a short response (see below) that is due the first day of class.

**In a paper of 1-1.5 pages, double-spaced, you must respond to the following prompt:**

In “The Things They Carried,” O’Brien uses form (the shape of how he tells the story) in order to show how the members of his platoon dealt with the anxieties and realities of fighting in Vietnam for a war they did not necessarily believe in.

In your response, you must explain both what it means to “carry” in “The Things They Carried”, and how “The Man I Killed” demonstrates what “carrying” means.

**Quoting is expected; please use at least four carefully selected, integrated quotes**

Side note: graphic novels are awesome! You may want to consider reading the following over the summer; they are not necessarily by American authors, but they tell incredible stories:

*Parable of the Sower* - adapted from Octavia E. Butler by Damian Duffy

*Persepolis* - Marjane Satrapi

*The Handmaid’s Tale* - adapted from Margaret Atwood by Renee Nault