

American Literature and Composition Honors

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Objective: Students will work in groups to devise a lesson plan that teaches significant themes and literary components of the group's assigned chapters in the novel *The Things They Carried*. The book is composed of vignettes, or a collection of stories, drawn from O'Brien's own experiences in the Vietnam War. Therefore, each chapter can stand on its own. Students will read their assigned chapters and devise their own lesson plan which consists of a(n):

- Visual aide: YouTube video, PowerPoint, Smart Board presentation, Prezi, etc.
- Activity: holistic class discussion, partner work, group based activity, etc.
- Assessment: multiple choice quiz, short answer quiz, graded worksheet, etc. This should be worth **5 points**. Groups must provide an answer key to the teacher **PRIOR** to giving the assessment.
- Significant Passages: While discussing the theme and or the various figurative language identified below, each group needs to specifically address at least **two to three passages** in the novel. These can be displayed on a visual aide or verbally addressed.

Unit Overview: The teacher will model a lesson plan for the first chapter entitled "The Things They Carried." Therefore, students will have an example to base their lesson plan off of. Each night, students will read assigned chapters in preparation for the following day's lesson plan. Each class will begin with a reading quiz given by the teacher to assess students' reading comprehension. Immediately following the reading quiz, that day's group will begin their lesson. Groups should plan on teaching for an entire 35 minute lesson. Groups will need to adjust their plans to fit into the allotted time. Every member of the group needs to contribute to the presentation (i.e. explaining, discussing, etc.). Each group needs to type up a detailed lesson plan for their presentation which details the group's chosen passages, figurative language, assessment, visual aide, and assessment. **All materials for the lesson plan must be turned in to Mrs. Kottra on the last day of lab time at the end of the class.**

Themes: In the lesson, groups must discuss the specified theme for each chapter identified below by Mrs. Kottra. If the group identifies another theme not specifically listed below, please feel free to share it with the class as well.

Identified Themes for Chapters:

- "Love": War is never forgotten
- "Spin": Memories are fragmented
- "On the Rainy River": Reversal of commonly held notions about courage in war
- "Enemies" and "Friends": Difference between war and fighting
- "How to Tell a True War Story": Blurring the line between truth and story
- "The Dentist": Relates to courage, heroism, valor
- "Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong": Storytelling and the loss of innocence
- "Stockings": Account of faith and hope
- "Church": Contrast between war and church
- "The Man I Killed" and "Ambush": Notion of truth and the search for closure
- "Style": Symbolism between the girl's dancing and war
- "Speaking of Courage": Norman Bowker's feelings of alienation
- "Notes": Using writing as a way to issue meaning to the war

- “In the Field”: Looking at the war person by person
- “Good Form”: Imagined accounts contain kernels of truth
- “Field Trip”: O’Brien identifies his source of emotional emptiness
- “The Ghost Soldiers”: O’Brien’s need to make war / Lesson on war and friendship
- “Night Life”: The precarious balance a soldier keeps and what happens when that balance is disrupted
- “The Lives of the Dead”: Stories serve as escapism

Figurative Language: Additionally, the group will address various literary techniques such as:

- Characterizations
- Point of View
- Plot Structure
- Symbols
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Paradoxes
- Imagery

Group Member Names: _____

Rubric

Component	0-2	3-4	5-6	7-8
Visual Aide	Fails to enhance the lesson, include graphics and illustrations, and/ or is not easy to follow.	Enhances the lesson, includes graphics and illustrations, and is easy to follow.	Adequately enhances the lesson, includes graphics and illustrations, and is easy to follow.	Appropriately enhances the lesson, includes graphics and illustrations, and is easy to follow.
Activity	Fails to engage students in the lesson while covering the major components of the assigned chapters.	Engages students in the lesson while covering the major components of the assigned chapters.	Adequately engages students in the lesson while covering the major components of the assigned chapters.	Actively engages students in the lesson while covering the major components of the assigned chapters.
Theme(s)	Fails to discuss the overarching themes and/or their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Discusses the overarching themes and/or their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Adequately discusses overarching themes and their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Significantly discusses overarching themes and their purpose in the assigned chapters.
Figurative Language	Fails to address additional literary techniques and/or their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Addresses additional literary techniques and/or their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Adequately addresses additional literary techniques and their purpose in the assigned chapters.	Appropriately addresses additional literary techniques and their purpose in the assigned chapters.
Assessment	Fails to construct academic and higher order thinking questions which appropriately assesses students' understanding of the lesson.	Constructed of some academic and higher order thinking questions which appropriately assesses students' understanding of the lesson.	Mostly constructed of academic and higher order thinking questions which appropriately assesses students' understanding of the lesson.	Constructed of academic and higher order thinking questions which appropriately assesses students' understanding of the lesson.
Presentation	Group members fail to make good eye contact, speak loudly and clearly, engage their peers, and/or display a knowledgeable understanding the group's assigned chapters.	Each group member sometimes makes good eye contact, speaks loudly and clearly, engages their peers, and sometimes displays a knowledgeable understanding of the group's assigned chapters.	Each group member mostly makes good eye contact, speaks loudly and clearly, engages their peers, and mostly displays a knowledgeable understanding of the group's assigned chapters.	Each group member makes good eye contact, speaks loudly and clearly, actively engages their peers, and displays a knowledgeable understanding the group's assigned chapters.
Total				<u> </u> / 48 Points

Mrs. Kottra's Comments: