

Homework: O'Brien

Write about a page in response to two of these questions about Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" (We will discuss all these questions in class.)

1. Why did O'Brien decide to define these soldiers by "the things they carried"?
2. What, in your view, are the two or three most surprising items carried by the men? What are the symbolic meanings of these items?
3. How does O'Brien transition from the theme of physical to psychological weight?
4. What is the role of Lt. Cross? How does he evolve as a character in the narrative?
5. In what ways does this story comment on war generally and on the Vietnam War?

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