Engli	ne for Study: <i>The Things They Carried</i> by Tim O'Brien sh Ten
having	ope is that when you finish the last page of this book, or any book, there is a sense of a experienced a whole life or constellation of lives; that something has been preserved, if the book hadn't been written, would have been lost, like most lives are. (O'Brien)
View V	eading s prior knowledge about Vietnam. Vietnam video. s the following quotes/ideas:
1.	"My own experience has virtually nothing to do with the content of the book My goal was to write something utterly convincing but without any rules as to what's real and what's made up" (O'Brien qtd in Michael's Coffey's interview "Tim O'Brien: Inventing a New Form Helps the Author Talk about War, Memory, and Storytelling")
2.	What do you carry with you when you aren't at school? Why? What do you carry with you when you are traveling? Why?
3.	"It was the burden of being alive" (O'Brien <i>The Things They Carried</i> 19).
4.	"Stories can save our lives" (O'Brien qtd in Michael's Coffey's interview "Tim O'Brien: Inventing a New Form Helps the Author Talk about War, Memory, and Storytelling")

During Reading

For each due date you will have one or more of the following assessments: resonance commentary, reaction paper, dialectic journal, quiz, timed writing.

Chapters "The Things They Carried"	<u>Due Date</u>	Assignment Reaction Paper
"Love" "Spin" "On The Rainy River"		Quiz
"Enemies" "Friends" "How to Tall a True War Story"		
"How to Tell a True War Story" "The Dentist"		Dialectic Journal
"Sweetheart of the Song Tra Bong"		Reaction Paper
"Stockings" "Church" "The Man I Killed" "Ambush"		Quiz
"Style" "Speaking of Courage" "Notes"		Dialectic Journal
"In The Field" "Good Form" "Field Trip"		Reaction Paper
"The Ghost Soldiers" "Night Life" "The Lives of the Dead"		Quiz

For each reading due date, you will prepare resonance commentary. This is a small piece of text: a sentence or paragraph or fragment. Choose something that is confusing or something that you like. Choose something that you disagree with or something you want to explore further. On the due date, these comments will guide our discussion.

Read and Analyze the Following Poem

"Dulce Et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge, Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs And towards our distant rest began to trudge. Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots 5 But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind; Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots Of disappointed shells that dropped behind. GAS! Gas! Quick, boys!-- An ecstasy of fumbling, Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time; 10 But someone still was yelling out and stumbling And floundering like a man in fire or lime.--Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light As under a green sea, I saw him drowning. In all my dreams, before my helpless sight, 15 He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning. If in some smothering dreams you too could pace Behind the wagon that we flung him in, And watch the white eyes writhing in his face, His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin; 20 If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs, Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,--My friend, you would not tell with such high zest 25 To children ardent for some desperate glory, The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori¹.

is sweet and righ

¹ It is sweet and right to die for one's country

Complete the following questions.

1.	Why end the poem with a Latin quote? Why not an English slogan?
2.	How would the poem be different if the last stanza weren't addressed to people at home? How does this stanza change the meaning of the poem?
3.	Do you think that the speaker creates a realistic picture of his own experiences? Why or why not?
4.	Describe and discuss the tones of the poem and where the tone shifts. Why?
5.	How would you characterize the speaker's attitude towards war?

Significant Characters:
Directions: Write in more information as we read the novel (quotes, actions, descriptions, <i>what they carried</i>).
Tim O'Brien : Narrator who is drafted into the Vietnam War and who goes through many traumatic experiences with his platoon.
Jimmy Cross: First lieutenant of Tim's platoon
Ted Lavender : The first member of Tim's platoon to be shot and killed
Kiowa : A Native American member of Tim's platoon whose death causes strong emotional reverberations in his friends.
Rat Kiley: Medic of their platoon
Norman Bowker : Member of Tim's platoon whose post-war actions illustrate its lasting impact
Henry Dobbins:

Mary Anne Bell: A soldier's girlfriend who completes a startling transformation

Dave Jensen:

Mitchell Sanders:

Lee Strunk:



Post-Reading

- Novel Study Guide
- Found Poem
- Research
- View Film
- Comparison Paragraph of film and novel.