

The Things They Carried – What do YOU carry?

The novel we will read is titled The Things They Carried. In this novel, the author tells us what each character “carries” with him into war (and later, back home). The things each character carries can be seen as a glimpse into that person’s personality, culture, and history.

Exercise: Think about the journey you took to get to class today, and answer the following questions. List them below.

- How far have you traveled (e.g., “all the way from the gym,” etc.) to get to class today?
- What have you brought with you on this journey? (“last night’s homework”, “my P.E. shorts”, etc.)

Now, think about your normal daily life. What are some of the things you carry every day? Again, answer the following questions as best you can (it might not be very easy – and you might have to get kind of deep with your response!) and list them in the space below (use the back of this sheet if necessary).

- What do you carry with you every day in school (in your bag, pocket, purse, etc.)?
- What things do you carry that are very visible to the world?
- What things are more hidden?
- What things are totally invisible, that is, abstract or symbolic?
- What do others make you carry?
- What things do you carry which you would like to put down?