***The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien**

**OVERVIEW, READING SCHEDULE, UNIT PLAN**

**The Facts:**

1. This is a college-preparatory section of English 11/American Literature. The level of challenge in our class is designed to prepare you for college. It was your choice to take the CP section. It is your choice to accept the challenge.
2. In college, you will be reading an average of 250 pages per week (amongst all your classes). At present, it’s unlikely that you’re reading 250 pages of grade-level material per week. You need to build up your reading stamina (amount of time you can sit and read) and your fluency (the speed at which you read grade-level material). This text was selected, in part, to help you improve both stamina and fluency. For this unit, you will need to maintain a fluency level of about 80 pages per week over the course of three weeks.
3. Online resources (such as character lists and summaries) are valuable because they help you when you’re reading and you get stuck. However, *they should* ***never*** *be used in place of the reading itself*. **The primary goal of your education is to improve your skills.** If you ONLY read summaries (such as Sparknotes) instead of the book itself, you are not reading at grade level, and therefore it will be increasingly difficult for you to improve your reading, writing, thinking, and communicating skills.
4. Teachers are glad when the assigned reading entertains you, and reading for entertainment is a valuable way to spend your time. However, the PRIMARY goal of assigned reading is not usually entertainment. If you’re bored while reading, try to re-direct your thoughts in a positive way and consider the fact that this book was assigned to help you improve your skills as a reader, writer, thinker, and communicator. Entertainment is secondary.
5. Your teacher is here to help you, and she can provide resources that will help you when you’re reading independently. If you’re struggling with the book, notify your teacher immediately.

**The Process:** Stick to the assigned reading schedule and you will be sure to finish the book in a timely fashion.

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| **DATES** | **CHAPTER CHECKLIST** |
| Period 6 Weds, Aug. 26 – Mon, Aug. 31  Period 5a Thus, Aug. 27 – Mon, Aug. 31 | * The Things They Carried (26 pages) * Love (5 pages) * Spin (8 pages) |
| Monday, Aug. 31– Friday, Sept. 4 | * On the Rainy River (23 pages) * Enemies (4 pages) * Friends (2 pages) * How to Tell a True War Story (18 pages) |
| Friday, Sept. 4 – Friday, Sept. 11 | * The Dentist (3 pages) * Sweetheart of Song Tra Bong (28 pages) * Stockings (2 pages) * Church (6 pages) * The Man I Killed (7 pages) |
| Friday, Sept. 11 –Friday, Sept. 18 | * Ambush (4 pages) * Style (3 pages) * Speaking of Courage (18 pages) * Notes (7 Pages) |
| Friday, Sept. 18 – Friday, Sept. 25 | * In the Field (16 pages) * Good Form (3 pages) * Field Trip (18 pages) * The Ghost Soldiers (8 pages) * Night Life (6 pages) * The Lives of the Dead (21 pages) |