

## THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

by Tim O'Brien

### Lesson plan suggestion for grades 7, 8, and 9

Students are encouraged to read the excerpt, "On the Rainy River". (Approximately 22 pages)

In this excerpt, the narrator receives his draft notice in June of 1968. He had been spending the summer working at a meat-packing plant in his hometown of Worthington, Minnesota. He leaves a note for his parents and drives north.

- Please also read and review this one page overview of the U.S. Draft in recent history.
  - [http://www.neabigread.org/teachers\\_guides/handouts/thethingstheycarried/handout2.pdf](http://www.neabigread.org/teachers_guides/handouts/thethingstheycarried/handout2.pdf)
- This brief overview of the entire work and description of the main characters provides the information needed to complete the lesson plan.
  - <http://www.neabigread.org/books/thethingstheycarried/readers-guide/>
- A suggested lesson plan for this excerpt and the related readings is found here.
  - [http://www.neabigread.org/teachers\\_guides/lesson\\_plans/thingstheycarried/thingstheycarried\\_lesson\\_two.pdf](http://www.neabigread.org/teachers_guides/lesson_plans/thingstheycarried/thingstheycarried_lesson_two.pdf)



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