

**Barry Goldwater High School
AP Language and Composition (ELA 5-6)
Summer Assignment 2021**

Summer Reading:

The BGHS Language Arts Department requires summer reading assignments for all of the advanced levels. We highly suggest you purchase your own copy of the novel to take notes in and use for essays and tests. You may find the books at libraries, bookstores, or online. To kick off our study of the art and science of language and composition, you will read Tim O'Brien's American classic, [The Things They Carried](#). It is available both digitally and in print from a variety of sellers for about \$10, or for free as an E-book at your friendly neighborhood Phoenix Public Library branch.

Note the assignment on the following pages.

Course Overview:

AP English Language and Composition is an introductory college-level composition course. This class will challenge you and change the way you read, write, and think about communication and the world around you. Before you read any further, please take a moment to peruse the official course overview on the [College Board's AP Website](#).

First Unit

Orwell

Politics and the English Language

Second Unit

King, Jr.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

Third Unit

Thoreau

Where I Lived and What I Lived For

Fourth Unit

Woolf

Professions for Women

For further information you may visit the B.G.H.S. web page at <https://bghs.dvusd.org.org>. This site links to "Departments: ELA," or visit the district web site at www.dvusd.org. If you have any questions or run into any problems as you work over the summer, do not hesitate to reach out to me via e-mail. Be safe and well, and have a fabulous summer break! **I can't wait to meet you in August!**

Sincerely,

Lelia Long
Lelia.Long@dvusd.org



AP Lang and Comp SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

On the following two pages, you will find a list of 11 different essay prompts, each of which relates to a different chapter of *The Things They Carried*. Your task is to **create an outline of your response to five (5) of them**. Keep in mind:

- You should be ready to hand these in on the first day of school. Each outline should include a **thesis, hook, and three supporting points**. You will save and submit these as a single Google Doc.
- Your first writing grade of the semester will be a **timed exercise** in which you will be asked to develop one or more of these into a **full essay in class**.
- Use the resources of the internet as you wish to help you build and extend your understanding of the events in the book, but **credit the sources of any ideas that are not your original thoughts**.
- Expect to take a fairly rigorous **reading test** which includes character descriptions, speaker/quotation identification, and multiple choice questions about main events. It asks you to recall information that is more detailed than the summaries you will find online.

Choose 5 from the following and create an outline:

“The Things They Carried”

This story, which lends its title to the book, details the various objects that the men of Alpha Company carry with them. Though O'Brien describes physical objects, these objects also describe the emotional and mental baggage that the soldiers carry as a result of combat. Explain the relationship between the physical objects and the men's emotional baggage. In light of this link, explain Cross's reaction to Lavendar's death.

“Love”

Lieutenant Cross was in Love with Martha the entire time he was in Vietnam, even though they had only been on a single date. When he catches up with her at a reunion years later, she is somewhat cold and distant. What does this story tell us about the effect of war on soldiers after they return to their lives back home?

“On the Rainy River”

This story deals with shame and conscience, which explains why O'Brien insists that it is a story that he has never shared with his family. Describe O'Brien's crisis of conscience (what, exactly, is he struggling with and why?). Ultimately, why do you think he made this decision?

“Enemies” & “Friends”

Examine Jensen and Strunk's complicated friendship, focusing especially on the pact that they make with one another. Why, do you think, is Jensen relieved when he learns of Strunk's death?

“How to Tell a True War Story”

Summarize O’Brien’s thoughts on war story narratives. Why is it especially difficult to tell a war story? How do his specific examples prove his point? Ultimately, what does this chapter say about the book as a whole?

“Stockings”

Explain the role of superstition in the lives of these soldiers. How does superstition allow them to survive this experience?

“The Man I Killed”

Why does O’Brien write this long, detailed description of the dead enemy soldier? Why do you think he imagines details about the man’s life and upbringing? What, do you think, is O’Brien saying about the weight of guilt?

“Ambush”

Compare this story to the previous story, “The Man I Killed.” How does knowing the circumstances of the enemy soldier’s death change your perspective? To answer the question look again at the previous chapter, and then carefully examine the end of the story.

“Speaking of Courage/Note/In the Field”

Kiowa is a constant figure through most of the stories in the book. Explain Kiowa’s importance to the company and to Tim O’Brien in particular. How is the company changed by Kiowa’s death? Does the manner of Kiowa’s death have particular significance?

“Good Form”

What does O’Brien mean when he says that sometimes story truth is truer than happening truth? What examples from the book can you find to support this claim?

“The Lives of the Dead”

Explain what O’Brien means when he says that, in stories, the dead live? The whole book is about Vietnam War stories, but this story focuses on O’Brien’s childhood. Why do you think O’Brien chose to end with this story? What does this story say about the rest of the book?