

## **Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition “The Things I Carry” Short Story Assignment**

Tim O’Brien portrays the lives of Vietnam War soldiers through his third-person short story “The Things They Carried.” By focusing on the soldiers’ physical and emotional burdens during the war, he conveys the TRUTH of their experience and their identities.

Your task is to convey the TRUTH of a student’s life by composing a short story focusing on what you carry each day at school. Model your composition after O’Brien’s example in “The Things They Carried.” You may choose to create your story in third-person as O’Brien does, and you may choose to incorporate your peers and their burdens. The other option is to focus solely on yourself and write your story from a first-person perspective.