

## “The Things They Carried” analysis questions

1. What is the relationship between the weight of what the soldiers carry and the burdens they carry?
2. What is the impact of the third-person narrative? Considering that this narrator is one of the soldiers, what is the significance of this character narrating in third rather than first person?
3. What is the significance of the name Jimmy Cross?
4. Is Jimmy Cross a dynamic character? Why or why not?
5. Analyze the structure of the story. What are the prominent divisions of the narrative focus?
6. How and for what purpose does the author employ a motif of sacrifice and savior in the story?
7. What phrases, images, and ideas are repeated in the story? What is the impact and significance of the repetition?
8. How does this story reveal a communal and personal experience? What is the connection and/or disconnection between the two experiences?
9. What is the significance of the title of the story? Consider the role of diction and syntax.