

**Senior AP Summer Reading Assignment 2008**

**Mr. Brennan**

Read The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien.

I have notified local book stores and Barnes and Noble, so there should be plenty of texts available. All the local libraries have copies.

While you read, consider the following questions. In September you will be asked to write an in class essay based on these questions. You are encouraged to take notes while reading.

1. Is the text a novel or a collection of short stories?
2. What recurring images or symbols appear throughout the text?
3. What is O'Brien's message about the purpose and importance of storytelling?
4. According to O'Brien, what is a "true war story" and what is a "false war story?"
5. Why does O'Brien provide us with such a detailed list of the things they carried?
6. In addition to the physical things, what else do the men carry?
7. What roles do females play in the text?
8. Choose one character, and discuss O'Brien's method of developing the character.
9. How can a story be both *made up* and *true*?
10. What is the most memorable passage in the book? Why?