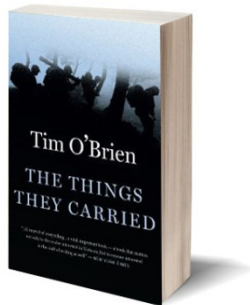


## *The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien



*“The Things They Carried is not just a tale of war, and the book’s themes are no less relevant today than they were decades ago. This award-winning work is a brutal, sometimes funny, often profound narrative about the human heart—how it fares under pressure and what it can endure.”*

—The Big Read

### **WHAT IS A COMMON READING?**

This is a book chosen by the Oglethorpe campus community especially for entering freshmen to read together as they begin their college experience together. Professors and instructors of the [First Year Seminars](#) will also read the book, and other faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends are encouraged to join in. New students should obtain the book over the summer and finish reading it by fall orientation.

### **WHY THIS BOOK?**

*The Things They Carried* is recommended by the National Endowment for the Arts’ [Big Read](#) project for community or campus Common Reading projects. The Oglethorpe faculty and staff who chose the 2012 book were especially interested in the connections to “Narratives of the Self”, the freshman Core seminar. Another thing they considered was the very high interest in war by our current students whose lives have largely been shaped by terrorism, war, and the impacts of both. The book is accessible and easy-to-read.

### **WHAT IS IT ABOUT?**

*The Things They Carried* is a collection of stories about American infantrymen in the Vietnam War, drawing on the author’s own experience as a drafted soldier during the conflict. The stories describe the environment and experience of fighting in the Vietnam jungles, but they also examine memory, emotion, truth, and whether we can make sense of terrible experiences and big questions.

### **WHERE CAN I GET IT?**

During OU Passport, the [OU Bookstore](#) will have plenty of copies, available at a 20% discount. You can also find the book at your local bookstore or from your favorite online retailer, such as [Amazon.com](#).

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Oglethorpe University Museum of Art – “Permanent or Evolving? ‘Things’ As They Appear in the Permanent Collection”. This exhibit of selected works from the Museum’s Collection explores the artistic treatment of objects-- *things*.
- Core Movie Nights – Dr. Devon Belcher will include several classic Vietnam War-themed movies for the fall Core Movie nights.
- Special Guest Lecture: “What We Will Carry With Us”, Thursday, October 18th, 2012  
Dr. Andrew Wiest, a history professor from the University of Southern Mississippi who specializes in the study of Vietnam, will speak at Oglethorpe University, honoring local veterans of Vietnam and Iraq wars.