

U.S. History II Honors-Mrs. Dahse

Fall 2008

SUMMER READING

ASSIGNMENT: *The Things they Carried* by **Tim O'Brien**

1. You will write an essay in class on September 4, 2008. You must have the book and notes with you. Books are available in room 310 and, during the summer, in the guidance office.

2. Take notes and include reference pages. You will have to include passages from the book to support your opinions and analysis. Focus on the following questions:

a. Explain the role played by O'Brien. Explain the turmoil he faced before going to Vietnam and how he was dealing with his experience twenty years after the war.

b. Discuss the experiences of your two favorite characters and explain why you were moved by their stories.

c. Discuss why or why not this book makes a valuable contribution to your understanding of the Vietnam War in particular, and war in general.

Enjoy the book and have a great summer!