



The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

“They carried all they could bear, and then some, including a silent awe for the terrible power of the things they carried” (7).

Tim O' Brien (1946-)

- Born in Austin, Minnesota
- Studied political science at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN
- Fought as an infantryman for the U.S. Army in Vietnam from February 1969-March 1970
- Returned to U.S. and studied government at Harvard and also worked for the *Washington Post* as an intern and a national affairs reporter



Tim O'Brien (continued)



- Has written short stories and novels, primarily about Vietnam, and has also collaborated on special writing projects (most recently, the Vietnam-themed episodes of *This is Us*)
- Lives in Austin, Texas

The Things They Carried

- Reads as a series of vignettes featuring a platoon of soldiers in Vietnam
- The main narrator is a “fictional” Tim O’Brien—Is this memoir? Is this fiction? Is it both?

