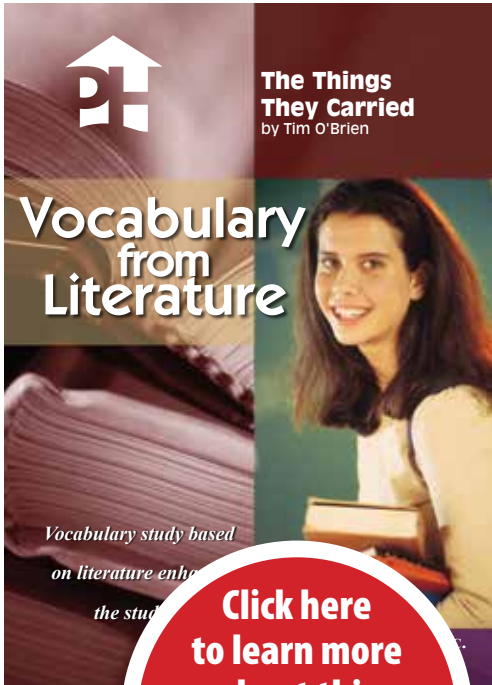




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Vocabulary From Literature for...

The Things They Carried

by Tim O'Brien

written by Liz Scott

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Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Section I

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary, and change any answers that are not correct.

hedge (3)	sensibilities (8)	abiding (16)	jag (17)
encyst (20)	buoyant (22)	valor (22)	mortification (22)
henceforth (24)	gross (24)	negligence (25)	comport (25)

- _____ a period of overindulgence
- _____ protection
- _____ feelings
- _____ to close over
- _____ bravery
- _____ floating
- _____ shame
- _____ from now on
- _____ extreme
- _____ neglect
- _____ to behave
- _____ unchanging

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity III
Writing Definitions and
Sentences from Context Clues
Section I

Directions: For each highlighted word, write a definition that fits the context of the passage. Then, check your answers by looking the words up in the dictionary. Finally, write a sentence using each word.

1. In any case those were my **convictions**, and back in college I had taken a **modest** stand against the war. Nothing radical, no hothead stuff, just ringing a few doorbells for Gene McCarthy, composing a few **tedious**, uninspired editorials for the campus newspaper. Oddly, though, it was almost entirely an intellectual activity. I brought some energy to it, of course, but it was the energy that accompanies almost any **abstract** endeavor; I felt no personal danger; I felt no sense of an impending crisis in my life. Stupidly, with a kind of **smug** removal that I can't begin to **fathom**, I assumed that the problems of killing and dying did not fall within my special **province**. (Pg. 41)

convictions:

modest:

tedious:

abstract:

The Things They Carried

Activity IV
Completing Sentences
Section I

Directions: The following sentences each contain a vocabulary word from the text. Complete each sentence with enough information to demonstrate you understand the meaning of the word.

Example:

Sentence Starter Containing the Vocabulary Word

The meaning of the sign was **elusive**, and John wasn't sure what to do because _____
_____.

Completed Sentence

The meaning of the sign was **elusive**, and John wasn't sure what to do because he didn't understand what the sign was trying to say.

1. The **sullen** waiter reminded me of my little brother because _____
_____.
2. The dog **cringed** when I came near, and _____
_____.
3. My friend always does everything with **zeal**, like when she _____
_____.
4. I tend to **blurt** things out, which can get me into trouble because _____
_____.

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Activity V
Words from Latin and Greek Roots
Section I

I. The Latin *mors, mortis* means “death.” Below are some words from this root and some prefixes from these words. Look up the words in a dictionary. Then match each word/prefix to its meaning.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. mortality | a. not living forever |
| 2. post | b. living forever |
| 3. not | c. im |
| 4. death | d. after |
| 5. postmortem | e. mortal |
| 6. immortal | f. examination done after death |

II. Now fill in each blank below with one of the words from above.

- A. Someone _____ will eventually die, but a person with _____ity can live forever.
- B. You must wait to conduct the _____ until after the patient has died.

III. The Latin *volere, volitus* means “to wish” or “to will.” Use a dictionary to help you answer the questions below.

1. A *malevolent* person, if you ask, will tell you she wishes _____ things for you.
- no
 - free
 - good
 - bad
2. A person who does things simply because he wishes to, not for money, is called a
- benevolent
 - volunteer
 - volition
3. No one told Stephanie to join the army; she enlisted of her own _____.
- malevolence
 - volunteer
 - volition