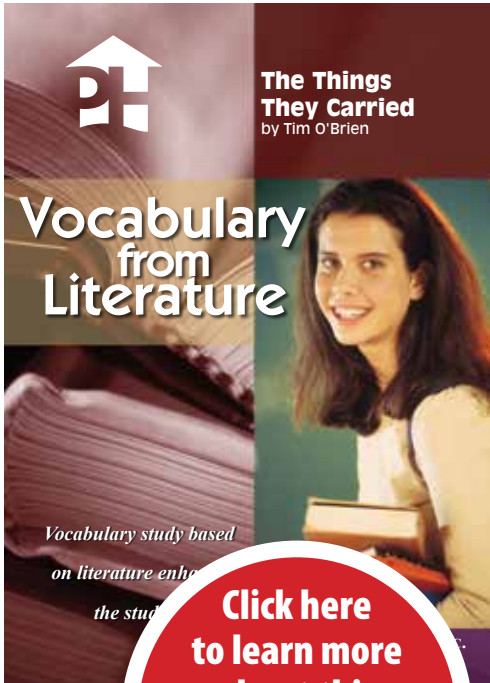




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*Vocabulary From Literature for...*

# *The Things They Carried*

*by Tim O'Brien*

written by Liz Scott

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**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

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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:**

---

---

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*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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*The Things They Carried*

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