

The Things They Carried

AP English Language &
Composition



Opening Writing

- Make a list of some of the things you are carrying with you.
- What does your list reveal about you?



Consider...

- Title Page: “A Work of Fiction”
- Acknowledgement Page: “This book is lovingly dedicated to the men of Alpha Company...”
- What do you make of this?



Epigraph

- John Ransom's Andersonville Diary appears to declare the "truthfulness" of the whole book.



Metafiction

- Storytelling ABOUT storytelling
- Value of experience, the malleability of memory, differences between fiction and reality
- Reflect on why we tell the stories we tell



Effect of Metafiction

- Writer trying to reveal emotional truth
- Author admits he is manipulating the reader, rearranging facts, leaving out what did happen and adding things that didn't.



Paradox

- Statement with two parts that seem contradictory but actually make sense with more thought
- “I was a coward. I went to the war.”
- “Dying, so as not to die of embarrassment.”

