ASSIGNMENT #1

Pick up a copy of *The Language of Composition* in our bookstore (fyi: there will be no charge because this is the textbook for the course) and actively read Chapter 1 (pp 4-35). You do **not** need to complete any of the Activities.

ASSIGNMENT #2

*A Pulitzer Prize Finalist.*
*A National Book Critics' Circle Award Finalist.*
*Winner of the Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger (France).*
*Winner of the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize.*

*Now with over two million copies in print, *The Things They Carried* is a classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene. It is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling.*

- Amazon

“A perennial favorite for most of my former students!”

- Mrs. Fortier

1- Purchase this copy of *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien.

2- Actively read O’Brien’s novel:
   - write chapter summaries (3-4 bullet points for each)
   - jot down margin notes that indicate plot (+ anything else you notice)

3- Choose one chapter on which to focus (*your favorite? the most intriguing? the most challenging?*) and star 3 quotes/short passages of note/interest to you that reflect character development and/or thematic relevance. (fyi: At the start of the year -- **not** the first class -- I will ask you to write about this chapter)

4- Type up each cited quote/short passage and write 5-6 sentences explaining its significance and/or why you chose it. Please use MLA format for this assignment.

- Bring the two books and your typed assignment to our first full day of class.
- Your active reading in *The Things They Carried* and your typed assignment will each be worth the equivalent of a homework check.

Don't hesitate to email with any questions! - Mrs. Fortier

**NB: The best way to prepare for this course is to read every day over the summer!**