



The Things They Carried

Tracing the Theme of Emotional Burden

A central theme in *The Things They Carried* is emotional burden. Find ten instances of this theme in the novel. Then:

In column 1: Record the name of the character the instance focuses on.

In column 2: Record the character's emotional burden.

In column 3: Explain whether the character carried this burden into war or gained it during the war.

After completing the chart, discuss which of the identified emotional burdens would be the hardest to carry. Give evidence to support your opinion.

Character	Emotional Burden	Carried into the War or Caused by the War?
Jimmy Cross	unrequited love for Martha that distracts him from his duty	carried into the war

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

SL.11-12.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 11-12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.