

# Reader response

[Linguistics](#), [English](#)



Reader response The literary techniques applied in writing this work offer an insight into the reflective role of literary art in the society. O'Brien shows in-depth mastery of critical literary analysis from diverse perspectives. It is worth to note the level of consistency of the themes and realities of life that resonates in this work. Considering the title, the things they carried, the author exhibits great thematic presentation as the work generally revolves around the physical and intangible burden that the soldiers in Vietnam carried. Blending love and war gives an intriguing contrast but indicates the emphasis of the writer do develop a storyline with central ideas intact.

Critical evaluation the work portrays the author as writing from personal experience hence offering a convincing version of the horrors of Vietnam War (O'Brien 12). The choice of character's, their roles and thematic significance is a manifestation of the author's literary knowledge. There is significant agreement between the symbolism technique and the title of the work. It is therefore worth concluding the severity of the inhumanity in which participants of Vietnam War were exposed.

Psychological torture dominated the war and it is evident from the soldier's heavy physical loads which are targeted on managing their ultimate mental needs. Guilt is dominant experience among the surviving soldiers in respect of other members of Alpha Company that have lost their lives. In response of the overall viewpoint of the author, this work is a masterpiece of excellent literary development, analysis and reflection. The extent of cruelty in Vietnam is written all over the work hence giving it authenticity and relevance to the society.

Work cited

O'Brien, Tim. *The Things They Carried: A Work of Fiction*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990. Internet resource.