

English 12- Modern Literature  
Summer Reading 2018

**Required texts:** *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien **and**  
*Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley

**Assignment:** Modern Literature depicts a struggle with traditional sources of moral authority. Postwar characters represent a state of disconnectedness and fragmentation. Please read, annotate, and consider how the characters in the above works fit into their modern environments and how those environments may foster concepts of alienation and faithlessness. There will be an in-class essay during the third week of school. Students will be expected to use their annotated texts for the essay in order to substantiate their ideas.

## **Annotating a Text**

Annotating a text is one of the essential ways to be an active reader and a highly effective study skill for the college-bound student. There are different techniques which will be discussed here. The objective of annotating is to locate important information in a text that will be easily found when looking back and reviewing. It is also a way to understand and organize what you read.

A well-annotated text will help one clearly locate and identify important information and display the reader's thoughts, questions and reactions to what was read. The reader should circle unfamiliar vocabulary.

A brief description of three techniques are described here:

**Highlighting/Underlining-** this is the most common form of annotating. It is an efficient way of noting important information. However, many students “over-highlight.” Highlighting should be used only for especially insightful passages. It is also suggested that one use only yellow markers—they do not interfere or distract with the reading as other colors sometimes do.

**Paraphrasing/Summarizing of Ideas-** this is a very effective tool in making sure the reader understands the ideas being propounded. It is an excellent preparation for any future writing assignments one may have to do based on reading. Even notes in the margins, as a quick summation of ideas, is good.

**Commenting/Questioning/Responding-** this is where the reader writes her/his personal reflections while reading. It is a wonderful way to sort out what is being read, and signal places that evoked a response. Don't forget to annotate wisely; you will be able to use both books for the writing assignment in class. MLA format required. Use the correct heading with your teacher's name as your instructor's name.