

POETRY WRITING

Students will create two poems based on two chapters from Tim O'Brien's novel *THE THINGS THEY CARRIED*. One will be based on the perspective of the narrator, the other based on the man who was killed. These two chapters may be effectively excerpted from the novel for this exercise.

Students will read the chapters "The Man I Killed" and "Ambush." Class discussion will focus on the following elements from the two chapters:

1. Repetition of passages
2. Imagery
3. Characterization and parallels between the two men
4. What is the truth?

Students will then write two poems of at least 12 lines each, one from the point of view of the narrator and the other from the perspective of the man who was killed.

Suggestions to students:

1. Focus on imagery and emotions.
2. Discuss Found Poems—using words, phrases in the original work to form a poem.
3. Discuss importance of line divisions for emphasis.
4. Discuss use of punctuation in poems for phrasing and/or sentence structure.