

Contour Line Unit

The Things They Carry - Handout

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____

BIG IDEA:

- What do you carry?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What is a contour line?
- How can you balance your text and the drawing of the backpack?
- What do you physically and emotionally carry on a daily basis? How does that compare to what the soldiers carry?

GOALS: For you to...

- Consider what it was like to be in the Vietnam War and the emotional impact it had.
- Consider how the things you carry compare and contrast to what the soldiers carried.
- Create a drawing of your backpack.
- Incorporate text into the drawing of your backpack.

OBJECTIVES: Students will...

- Complete sketches of their backpacks.
- Listen while a chapter from the book, "The Things They Carried," by Tim O'Brien, is read.
- Draw their backpacks using contour lines.
- Incorporate text into their drawings about the things they physically and emotionally carry on a daily basis.

STANDARDS:

Middle School:

- ART:
 - VA:CR1.2.HSI: Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present day life using a contemporary practice of art or design.
 - VA.CR.2.7c: Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art that clearly communicates information or ideas.
 - Cambridge IGCSE – AO3: Organization and relationships of visual and/or other forms. 1. Organize and use visual and/or other forms effectively to express ideas. 2. Make informed aesthetic judgments by recognizing the effect of relationships between visual and/or other forms.
 - VA: Re7.1.HSI: Hypothesize ways in which art influences perception and understanding of human experiences.

SUPPLIES:

- Art notebooks
- 12"x18" white drawing paper
- Backpacks
- Pencils
- Erasers
- "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien

PRODUCT:

- Sketches of the backpack
- Completed contour line drawing of a backpack with text added

PRINTABLES:

- The things they carry rubric

VOCABULARY:

- **Line:** A line is an identifiable path created by a point moving in space. It is one-dimensional and can vary in width, direction, and length. Lines often define the edges of a form. Lines can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, straight or curved, thick or thin.
- **Contour line:** a line that defines a form or an edge. The outline or silhouette of a given object or figure. Can also be used to show basic details or changes within the plane of an object.
- **Elements of art:** The building blocks of a work of art. The visual components of color, form, line, shape, space, texture, and value.
- **Principles of design:** describe the ways that artists use the elements of art in a work of art. Includes: balance, emphasis, movement, proportion, repetition, pattern, rhythm, unity, and variety.
- **Balance:** the sense of even distribution of perceived visual in a work of art. We feel more comfortable--and therefore find it more pleasing--when the parts of an artwork seem to balance each other.

DIRECTIONS:

**DAY 1: (A DAY: 8/27, B DAY: 8/28) Introduction to “The Things They Carried”
Contour Line Drawing**

- The final contour line drawing is going to be of your backpack. Place your backpack on the table in front of you
 - **You must complete at least three sketches** of your backpack. Each sketch must be a **different position**.
- The thumbnail sketches paper will be put in your “sketches” section of your class binder.
 - Remember to add details.
 - Find the most successful position for drawing your backpack.
 - What is the most interesting and successful angle for your backpack drawing?
- Clean Up: papers go in your binder, all binders are put away, supplies are put away.

DAY 2: (A DAY: 8/30, B DAY: 8/31) Reading/backpack drawing

- Get out your art notebooks and look at your sketches from before.
 - Look at the positioning of your backpack in your favorite sketch. Set up your backpack in a similar/same position
 - You will be working on 12”x18” sheets of paper
- While you are drawing your backpack, Mrs. Green will be reading an excerpt from the book, “The Things They Carried,” by Tim O’Brien.
 - No talking while reading, just listen.
 - Since Mrs. Green will be reading, she won’t be able to help you start your drawings. You are on your own, but your sketches should help guide you.
- Remember to fill the page with your drawing.
- Mrs. Green will read the first chapter of “The Things They Carried.”
- **Mrs. Green will do a project progress check at the end of the reading. It will be a grade.**
- The last five minutes of class - clean up.

Project Progress Check:

- Made excellent daily project progress on your drawing. (25 Points)
- Made adequate daily project progress on your drawing. (19 Points)
- Made minimal daily project progress on your drawing. (13 Points)

You must have Mrs. Green sign off on this part, in order to get your daily project progress points.

DAY 3-4: (A DAY: 9/4 & 9/6, B DAY: 9/5 & 9/7) Backpack drawing

- Class discussion about the book reading
 - What do you think about the things the soldiers carried? Did any particular items stand out to you?

 - How would it feel to be far from home, out of contact with friends and family, and thinking about them?

 - What do you think about the physical weight of the things they (the soldiers) carried? Which seemed heavier? The physical or emotional baggage?

 - What do you carry in your backpacks everyday? What do you physically and emotionally carry everyday?

 - How do the things you carry impact your mood, performance in school, and relationships with friends and family?

 - You will write about the things you carry and put your writing you're your drawings. How do you think this will impact the perception of your drawing? It will no longer be a simple drawing of a backpack, there will be more to it, do you think your viewers will understand that?

- NOW, put your backpacks back on the table and continue working.
 - Remember this is a project grade
 - Your backpack drawing needs to be very detailed.

- Once you've completed your backpack drawing, you will then incorporate your text into your drawing. The text should come from the list and sentences you wrote about all the things you physically and emotionally carry on a daily basis.
 - You will complete a list of words and/or sentences that you want to include in your drawing – in your sketchbook. (**See: “What You Carry on a Daily Basis” paper – page 6**)
 - Things to consider for your drawing: **The placement of the text.** (It should balance with the drawing and enhance the drawing not distract from it.) **How will the text interact with the backpack?** The text could outline the backpack, fill the background around it, be written inside the backpack. **Words can be repeated or written only once.**
 - Also consider: **how the words will be written.** Some can be larger, block letters to take up space, negative words could be written in a different style than positive ones.
 - Think about how the word's appearance can and will impact the meaning it has within your drawing.

- The last five minutes of class: clean up.

GRADING:

- Backpack sketches & lists will be graded during the mid-semester/mid-year notebook check
- The backpack drawing counts as a project grade.

What You Carry on a Daily Basis

*Think about the things you carry on a daily basis, both physically and emotionally.

*Write about those things by creating a list and/or sentences that express those things.

Things You Physically Carry:

(ex: backpack)

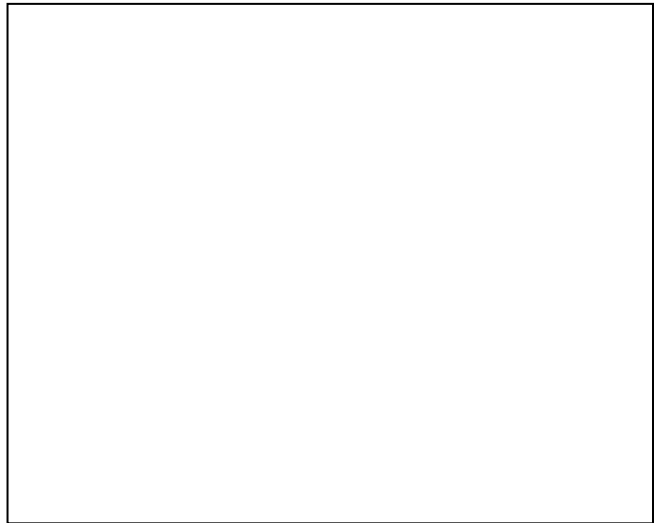
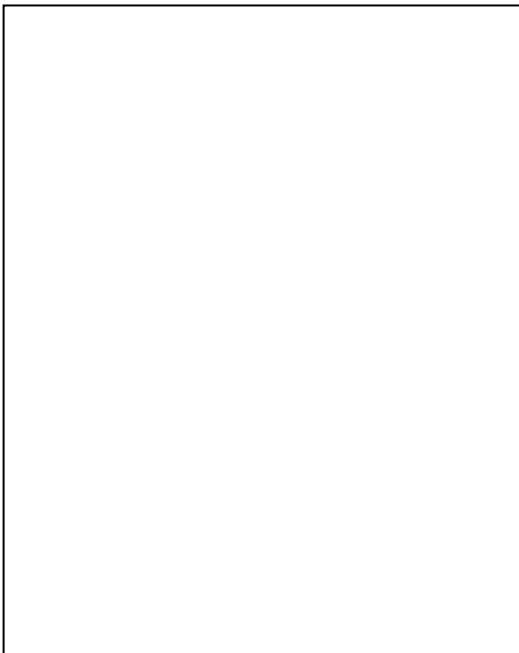
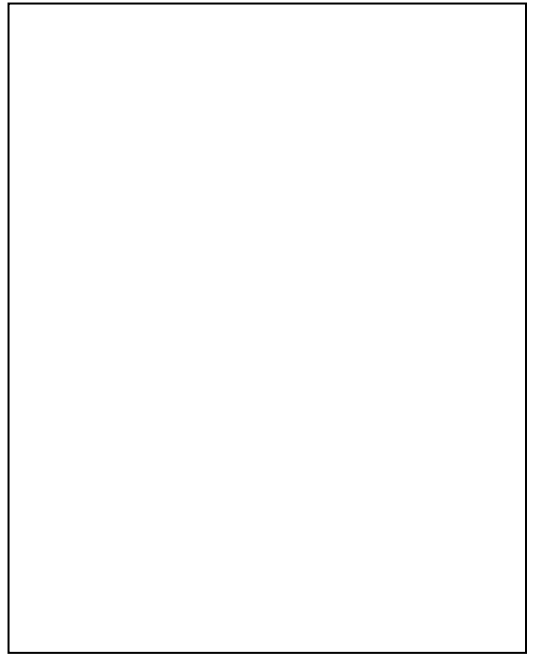
Things You Emotionally Carry:

(ex: tiredness)

Name: _____ Class: _____

Thumbnail Sketches – Planning Paper

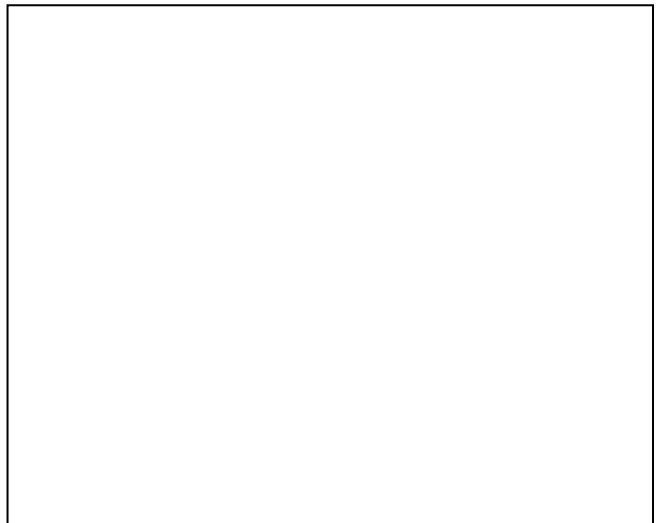
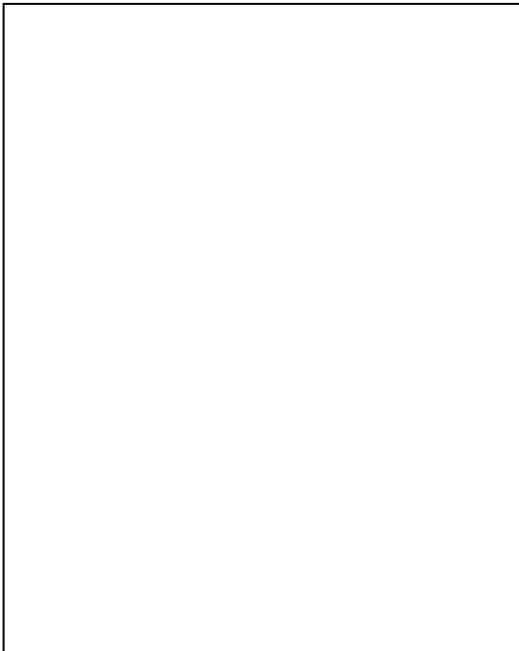
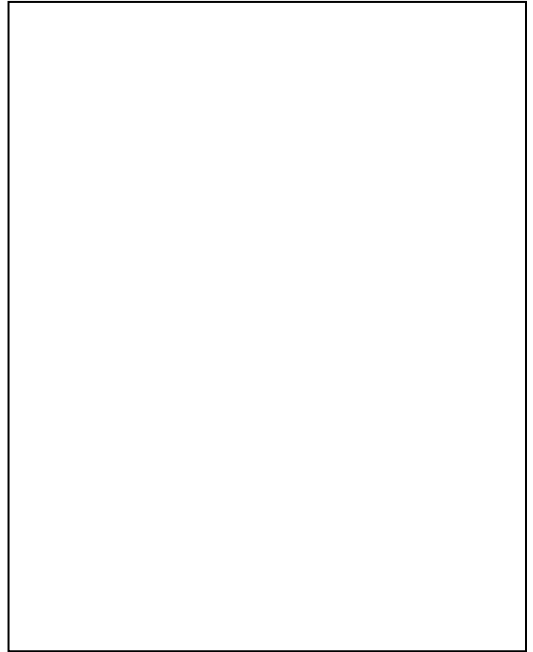
Project: _____



Name: _____ Class: _____

Thumbnail Sketches – Planning Paper

Project: _____



Name: _____ Class: _____

The Things They Carry Rubric

Category	Expectations	Possible Points	Comments	Score
Contour drawing	The drawing is accurate, large, and detailed. It includes all the elements of the backpack.	45		
Text	The text is creatively incorporated, balances, and enhances the drawing. The words are written in a thoughtful way.	15		
Daily Project Progress – Class Participation	The artist completed the sketches and paid attention during the reading. The artist added to the discussion of the book.	10		
Craftsmanship	Overall all it looks neat, well cared for, and thought out. All pencil lines and random marks are erased.	10		
Personalization	The drawing is interesting to look at and is personal to the artist. The artist can be “seen” in the final work. The artist created their project in a unique and interesting way.	10		
Professionalism	The artist used class time well and put thought into their art.	10		
		Total pts 100	Grade:	

Thoughtful: showing careful consideration and attention

Scoring Totals:

Total Individual Sections

100 – 90 A	45 – 41 A	15 – 13.5 A	10 – 9 A
89 – 80 B	40 – 36 B	13 – 12 B	8 B
79 – 70 C	35 – 32 C	11 – 10.5 C	7 C
69 – 60 D	31 – 27 D	10 – 9 D	6 D
59 – 0 F	26 – 0 F	8 – 0 F	5 – 0 F