

Student Name

Ms. Jane Taylor

English 2131

15 June 2018

Annotated Bibliography

Barden, Thomas E. "Urban Legends in Tim O' Brien's '*The Things They Carried*.'" *An International Journal of the Humanities*, 2010, Vol. 22, Issue 1, pp. 1-14
<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/results>

In the article "Urban Legends in Tim O' Brien's *The Things They Carried*," author Thomas E. Barden looks at the role folklore plays into the stories of Tim O' Brien. Barden is a former United States lieutenant who was drafted in 1968 and served with the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Artillery. He has a P.H.D. in English from the University of Virginia that he received in 1975. The author delves into the use of folklore in "*The Things They Carried* and how his personal experience gives him a different perspective on the book. Barden states "that O'Brien's works accurately render the folklore of the U, S, combat ground troops in the Vietnam War during the late 1960s and early 1970s, which I can do as a former member of the group" (20). The author also looks at O' Brien's other work, saying that "Folk speech, folk syntax, slang and jargon, graffiti, folk sayings, proverbs, folk rhymes, superstitions, and particularly war stories, rumors, anecdotes, and legends permeate his books. Furthermore, O'Brien as narrator typically points out, glosses, and comments on the folklore he presents." (3). The author then cites many examples from *The Things They Carried* of folklore and dissects what the ghost stories told throughout the book mean and how they exemplify the use of folklore. Barden continues his critique of the use of folklore in the book and points out the distinction between O' Brien and other writers who have tackled the subject of Vietnam. He writes, "I submit that it is O'Brien's extensive and sophisticated use of the folklore of the troops in the war in its performance setting that accounts for it" (5). This article is for anyone who is interested in O' Brien's work and the use of folklore in literature. I was able to better understand the effectiveness of folklore after reading this article.

Lanier, Doris. "The Bittersweet Taste of Absinthe in Hemingway's 'Hills Like White Elephants.'" *Studies in Short Fiction*, Vol. 26, Issue 3, pp. 279-287
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In the article "The Bittersweet Taste of Absinthe in Hemingway's 'Hills Like White Elephants'" author Doris Lanier explores the significance of the drug absinthe in Ernest Hemingway's classic story. She makes a strong case for how Hemingway uses absinthe to portray the feelings of the two characters in the moment of Hemingway's story. Describing the different societal understandings associated with absinthe, Lanier dives

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deep into the possible metaphors and meanings behind Hemingway's decision to include the mention of the drug. Lanier writes extensively about the history of the drug and its reputation throughout the world in the early twentieth century. She writes "Following its first production, there was a steady increase in absinthe consumption, and ... there was ... great concerns about Europeans' overindulgences in the drink" (283). In addition to absinthe being a mind-altering substance, the author points out that "Absinthe was alluring not only because of its narcotic effects but also because of its reputation as an aphrodisiac" (285). The audience of this article is anyone who has interest in Hemingway's work or the effects of absinthe. While the article is long, Lanier's writing never overwhelms the reader. This article thoroughly educates the reader on the social and historical stances of the hallucinogenic and the many possible reasons for its inclusion in Hemingway's work. I found myself more aware of the symbolism in Hemingway's use of the drug in "Hills Like White Elephants" and I was able to better appreciate literary criticism as a whole.

Mustazza, Leonard. "Generic Translation and Thematic Shift in Susan Glaspell's 'Trifles' and 'A Jury of Her Peers.'" *Studies In Short Fiction*, Vol. 26, Issue 4, pp. 489-486
<http://content.ebscohost.com/ContentServer.asp?T=P&P=AN&K=7135797&S=R&D=a9h&EbscoContent>

In the article "Generic Translation and Thematic Shift in Susan Glaspell's 'Trifles' and 'A Jury of Her Peers,'" Leonard Mustazza explores the differences and similarities between Susan Glaspell's one-act play and her classic short story. The author starts by distinguishing the differences between the two works, writing "The nature of these additions is twofold, the first and most obvious being her descriptions of locales, modes of utterance, characters, props, and so on—the kinds of descriptions that the prose writer's form will allow but the dramatist's will not" (490). Mustazza goes on to write about the differences in the opening between the two versions of Glaspell's story, making a fascinating observation about the omission of detail in the physical appearance of the characters. The author also points out the distance between Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters that is much more focused on in "A Jury of Her Peers" than in "Trifles." Mustazza continues exploring the differences, writing "First, there is the continual comparison between Mrs. Hale's life and Mrs. Wright's. Second, and more important, we get the clear sense here of Mrs. Hale's suspicion of Mrs. Peters, her not wanting to call attention to the unfinished job for fear that the sheriff's wife will get the wrong idea" (493). The author continues to point out the significant differences between the two works and arrives at an intriguing conclusion. She writes, "Whereas 'Trifles,' opening as it does with the women's close physical proximity, reveals the dichotomy between male and female concepts of justice and social roles, 'A Jury of Her Peers' is much more concerned with the separateness of the women themselves and their self-injurious acquiescence in male-defined roles" (496). The article is a brilliant piece of literary analysis and criticism. The writing is effective and interesting and is never confusing or crammed. I found the article to be a fascinating look at the differences between the two works by Susan Glaspell, and it broadened my view and respect of the Glaspell's writing even more than I already had.