

Part One: Quotes

The things they carried p144

- 1- "He was a slim, dead, almost dainty young man of about twenty. He lay with one leg bent beneath him, his jaw in his throat, his face neither expressive nor inexpressive. One eye was shut. The other was a star-shaped hole"
- 2- "This is my play's last scene Here... Heavens appoint my pilgrimage's last mile And my race Idly, yet quickly run Hath this last pace My span's last inch My minute's last point And gluttonous death Will instantly unjoint my body and soul" John Donne..."
- 3- "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear."
- 4- "I see people, as they approach me, trying to make up their minds whether they'll 'say something about it' or not. I hate if they do, and if they don't."
- 5- "What's worse, all the advertising in the world won't ever make it an expandable market."
- 6- You take this too lightly. This is metaphysical poetry, not the modern novel. The standards of scholarship and critical reading which one would apply to any other text are simply insufficient. The effort must be total for the results to be meaningful.
- 7- John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming, I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- 8- "It was very flattering, it gave kids a chance to feel the sense of excitement of putting on a show for people who were then excited about it. I think this is one of the best things you could give somebody, the chance to show them what it feels like to make other people get excited and happy."
- 9- By telling stories, you objectify your own experience. You separate it from yourself. You pin down certain truths. You make up others. You start sometimes with an incident that truly happened, like the night in the shit field, and you carry it forward by inventing incidents that did not in fact occur but that nonetheless help to clarify and explain
- 10- "we cannot change the cards we are dealt just how we play the hand"
- 11- I'd come to this war a quiet, thoughtful sort of person, a college grad, Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude, all the credentials, but after seven months in the bush I realized that those high, civilized trappings had somehow been crushed under the weight of the simple daily realities. I'd turned mean inside.
- 12- "Millions of kids having fun while learning something fun, that's pretty cool."
- 13- "The death of a beloved is an amputation."
- 14- "While reading *The Runaway Bunny*: A little allegory of the soul. No matter where it hides. God will find it."
- 15- "If you think women were at least participant and perhaps instrumental in the discovery of these honors, you might better keep such suspicions to yourself. These are not good days to think such thoughts."
- 16- "They carried the soldier's greatest fear, which was the fear of blushing. Men killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to. It was what had brought them to the war in the first place, nothing positive, no dreams of glory or honor, just to avoid the blush of dishonor. They died so as not to die of embarrassment."
- 17- "I used to use the *unit pricing method*- the old package deal. It meant that you only had one number to look at. It was a large number. Now everything is itemized. It's the law."
- 18- "My idea of God is not a divine idea. It has to be shattered time after time. He shatters it Himself."
- 19- "But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."
- 20- "Kelekian and Jason are simply delighted. I think, they see celebrity status for themselves upon the appearance of the journal article, they will no doubt write about me."