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President's Message...

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President's Message...

by Carol Paul, MRA President 2018-2019

Dear Michigan Booklovers:

Welcome to the winter 2019 edition of the *Michigan Reading Journal*. I am excited for the new year and like many others have made a resolution! My resolution is to tackle the large stack of books that friends have given me to read. I am starting out 2019 by reading, *The Things They Carried*, a novel recommended by an educator at Southeastern High School. The book is written and narrated by Tim O'Brien, who shares his experiences during the Vietnam War through tales of fiction and nonfiction. In the story, O'Brien uses the tangible and intangible baggage that the members of his Vietnam troop carry as a way to tell universally appealing stories. As I was reading this book, I thought to myself, "I wonder what educators carry with them?" I posed this question to others in the field and received many responses.



Carol Paul

Mike Schmoker, author of six books and dozens of articles for education journals, newspapers, and *Time* magazine wrote:

"Wherever I go, I bring something to read—and a pen. I'm not an online reader; it has to be a physical book, a serious magazine or *The New York Times* book review (I keep several issues in my car—for "emergencies"). And no text is so sacred that I won't underline or write in the margins—hence the pen. I carefully avoid ever being somewhere with time to learn, but nothing to read."



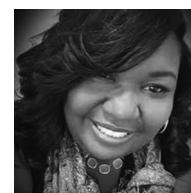
Susan Riley, founder of EducationCloset noted the following:

"Everyday, I carry my glasses. I need them to clearly see the world around me. I have contacts, but almost always prefer to wear my glasses. I think it's because the act of putting them on reminds me that sometimes, we need a new lens to refine our point of view."



Author and Flint resident, Gale Glover reported:

"As an educator, I carry names, faces, struggles, and accomplishments tucked away in my heart. These are the stories of the students who have impacted my life. The students believe I am their mentor when in reality they are the true educators. Their stories allow me to create new strategies that will help future generations succeed. So, what do I carry? I carry the most precious thing of all. I carry their STRENGTH."



As the new year progresses, consider joining the Michigan Reading Association to strengthen and replenish

your literacy spirit. Together, we can carry and support each other!

-Carol Paul, *MRA President 2018-2019*

Note: Educators carry many things, which was evident by the number of submissions I received from my question. To read the entire list of submissions, check out Michigan Reading Association Winter edition of News and Views.

Reference

O'Brien, T. (1990). *The things they carried*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin.

Carol Paul is the 2018-2019 president of the Michigan Reading Association. Carol is a MI Excel ELA Coach. As an English Language Arts Coach, she primarily works with educational improvement teams to enhance instructional practices, provide professional development and instructional coaching to staff with the goal of raising student achievement. Mrs. Paul is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University (B.S.), University of Michigan-Dearborn (M.A.), and Wayne State University (Ed.S.). She is currently enrolled at Capella University seeking a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education, specializing in curriculum and instruction. She can be reached at capaul0813@gmail.com.

