

***THE ROAD*- QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

After you have read the novel, answer each of the following questions in a paragraph or two. These will be collected the first day of school.

1. Why do you think there are so few named characters in the story? What impact does it have on your interpretation of the characters to just know them as “the man” and “the boy”?
2. Consider the death of the boy’s mother. What motivates her? Why do you think the author includes this scene? What impact does it have on the novel?
3. What do you think is meant by “carrying the fire”? In what way is this idea significant in the novel?
4. *The Road* is a classic journey story, a genre dating back to *The Odyssey* and beyond. What is their destination? In what sense are they pilgrims? What is their journey really about?
5. McCarthy often writes about the opposition of good and evil in his work. What is the view of good vs. evil presented in *The Road*? What is the role of God in the novel?
6. How does the boy’s innocence shape his view of the world? How does his view of the world differ from his father’s? How would the father’s view of the world be different without the boy?
7. How do you interpret the ending of the novel? Is there hope there?