

AP Literature & Composition
Winter Break Reading
The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Read, highlight, and annotate your book. Be prepared for discussion on the following questions and use the questions for your focus as you read. Also be prepared for a test on the book on January 10th.

SYMBOLS AND SETTINGS: In this stark futuristic world, there are few possessions worth much and few places to find reprieve. Pay attention to them.

STYLE: McCarthy has an unmistakable prose style. What are its distinct features? How does this style support the novel as a whole?

CHARACTERS: What makes the relationship between the boy and his father so powerful and poignant? Why did McCarthy choose not to name his characters?

THEME: What does the novel ultimately suggest about good and evil?

JOURNEY MOTIF: *The Road* takes on the form of a classic journey story – a form dating back to *The Odyssey*. What characteristics of the journey are present in the novel?

FAITH: How does McCarthy address religion, morality, or spirituality?

DREAMS AND MEMORIES: Note them for their context and meaning.

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS: Consider the choices the author makes to begin and end his novel.

HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR: Read “Nice to Eat You: Acts of Vampires” (Ch. 3) and “More Than It’s Gonna Hurt You: Concerning Violence” (Ch. 11)