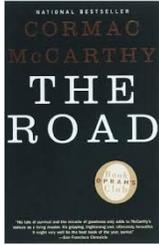


English 4 Summer Reading 2019



The Road

by Cormac McCarthy

ISBN 9780307387899

Reading literature

Before you read *The Road*, consider why we read literature.

American writer Flannery O'Connor once received a letter from a student at Hollins College asking her “just what enlightenment” she intended in her stories.

“I suspect she had a paper to write,” O'Connor said. “I wrote her back to forget about the enlightenment and just try to enjoy them.”

“A story isn't any good,” O'Connor wrote, “unless it...hangs on and expands in the mind. Properly, you analyze to enjoy, but it's equally true that to analyze with any discrimination, you have to have enjoyed already....”

Read *The Road*—read all literature—in this spirit, allowing delight to bring wisdom.

Reading The Road

Before reading *The Road*, read the Jesuit [Grad at Grad](#). You've heard the characteristics in the Examen every day, seen them on the floors in Clay and Agee. Now it's time to reflect on them through literature.

Read *The Road* through [the lens](#) of one Grad at Grad characteristic. As you read the novel, in addition to enjoying and experiencing the characters and the story, note passages sparking reflection and insight into your Grad at Grad characteristic.

Place a Post-it note on each passage. On that Post-it note, write your Grad at Grad characteristic, then what the passage teaches you *about* that characteristic. Don't summarize or generalize. Closely read the passage, working to see implication and subtext. You must annotate a minimum of 12 passages from the novel's beginning, middle, and end. You want to follow your Grad at Grad characteristic throughout *The Road*. [Example annotation](#). Also, list the passages by page number on the inside cover of your book.

Aim to collect evidence for an in-class essay you'll write during the second class meeting. For that essay, you will be able to use your annotated book.

After writing that essay, doing some peer editing, receiving some teacher feedback, and discussing the novel, you'll write a revision.

Your teacher will check your annotations during the first class meetings.

Your reading, your selection of passages, your annotations—all of your work—is to be 100% yours and yours alone. No one but you knows what you think. Learning to build and defend an interpretation is one of the many skills English teaches.