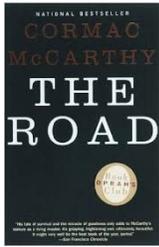


## AP English Literature and Composition Summer Reading 2019



### *The Road*

by Cormac McCarthy

ISBN 9780307387899

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," she 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...."

Enjoying means connecting ourselves to the characters and their stories, experiencing and feeling along with them. That's the beginning of good reading. And that's the beginning of AP Literature.

Read *The Road* in that spirit.

Then read the novel again with enlightened discrimination. As you read, you might look for the four major patterns in narrative: repetition; shift; contrast; juxtaposition. Narrative writers use these patterns to convey feeling and meaning.

Annotate as you go. Annotation records your thoughts and insights while you read, what you notice, how what you notice informs your understanding and prompts further questions. How you annotate is up to you. Here, though, are some sample annotations: [Antigone](#); [The Iliad](#); [Frankenstein](#).

During the second class meeting you will write an in-class essay on an [AP Question 3 prompt](#). You will not be allowed to use your book or any notes on that essay, nor will you know the prompt beforehand. You need to know the novel well enough to cite evidence from memory, not to quote it but to paraphrase it in detail to support and develop your ideas.

This in-class essay will be a grade of its own. After some peer editing, feedback from me, and direct instruction, you will revise the essay for another grade.

Read *The Road* for yourself, noticing what you notice and thinking what you think. Gaining confidence and expertise in your ability to create, explain, and defend an interpretation is an important trait in AP Lit., as it is in life. So do the work yourself, for yourself.