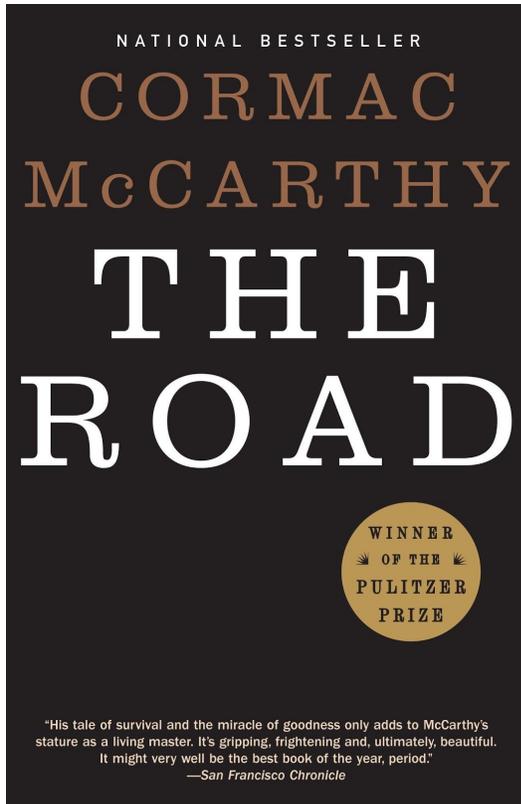


Summer Reading

Dystopian Literature Senior Elective, Fall 2019



Welcome to the summer reading for our class on Dystopian Literature, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy (ISBN-10: 9780307387899, ISBN-13: 978-0307387899)

The Road tells the story of a father and son who journey across a bleak, post-apocalyptic landscape in search of food and safety. The novel provides rich terrain for thinking about profound questions of death and survival, the fate of the earth, and relationships between parents and children. As you read, you may find yourself making connections between *The Road* and novels you have read previously, including some that you have studied in your English classes. In approaching this novel, please give free rein to your own responses to the text. As *The Road* is an important novel, explanatory material abounds online; however, all that counts is what you personally find to be meaningful.

As you read, please capture your own thinking about the novel, as follows:

1. Please note in a Google Doc aspects of the book that you find notable, perhaps because you experience them, for example, as moving, thought provoking, perplexing, or disturbing. You might also record connections that strike you between the dystopian world McCarthy depicts and aspects of our contemporary world. Where possible, please include page references to passages that gave rise to the reactions you are noting in your Google Doc.
2. In the same Google Doc, please write three questions that you would wish to explore in your study of *The Road*. They may be as straightforward as “Why are the principal characters never given names?” Another might be, “What didn’t the survivors reconstitute a government to ensure the common good, to the extent possible?” If you think useful, you may preface your questions with comments on why you wish to explore them. In the first example, you might say that you’ve always taken an interest in the names of characters and are having difficulty understanding the author’s deliberate choice to omit them in this novel.