

Assessment Options**Due date: TBA**

1. *Short Story*. Use *The Road* as a basis for a short story of your own making. Your story must be a minimum of 1,250 words (approximately 5 double-spaced pages, font of your choice 1" margins). In addition, you must provide a statement of one page or less explaining the ways your story relates to *The Road* (as if you were "pitching" your story to an agent or publisher.)

Suggestions:

- Remove the man and the boy from the context of the novel and place them in your own fictional place, time, and circumstance. This is harder than it appears, because the characters must be recognizable as the same—speaking and acting as they do in the novel, and having essentially the same tendencies.
 - Write a post-apocalyptic story of your own, using McCarthy's distinctive style.
 - Write your version of a scene from *The Road* from another character's point of view.
2. *Take home test* options are as follows. All papers are to be 3+ pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12, with 1" margins. It is strongly suggested that you choose one of the options early in the reading so you can make notes that might contribute to your paper as we study the novel in class.
 - Compare and contrast *The Road* to one of the four previous works we have studied. Center your analysis on key ideas represented in both works (examples: Kafka, isolation; Dante, a journey through the underworld; Garcia-Marquez, memory; Endo, divine silence; Thoreau, nature; Melville, existential meaning, etc.) Briefly summarize the idea as it appears in the other work, and then elaborate on how it is treated in *The Road*. Be sure have a clear thesis statement, and to cite evidence from the text to support your ideas.
 - Choose five key sentences that, together, contribute to the formation of a theme as you see it as expressed in the novel. Provide contextual background for each of the five extracts, and show how each one supports the theme as you have stated it. The sentences you choose do not need to be given in the order in which they appear in the novel; rather, you should order them with a view to expanding upon the theme.
 - Write an analytical commentary on one section of *The Road* consisting of no more than three consecutive paragraphs. Consider any and all literary techniques in your analysis. Show the importance of the extract to the overall meaning of the novel. Use a few, carefully selected quotations from the text in support of your analysis.