**English 110**

**Study Questions**

**The Road**

1. What does the man attach to the handle of the cart he pushes?

2. What illness or condition plagues the man throughout the novel?

3. What special drink does the father find and give his son? According to the son, “It’s because I won’t ever get to drink another one, isn’t it?”

4. What house do the men and boy go out of their way to find and then explore?

5. What does the man always carry except for the times when he gives it to his son to carry?

6. What does the man find inside the jack-knifed tractor-trailer truck on the bridge in one of the mountain passes?

7. What does the father do when he and his son find the old man who had been struck by lightning?

8. What had happened one day at 1:17?

9. What does the father remove from his pocket and leave in the road?

10. What had happened to the mother?

11. What does the father do when one of the men from the diesel truck walks through the woods and finds the father and son?

12. What does the father carve for his son?

13. Who does the boy see early in the novel and want to help? (He is upset when the father refuses to help. He sees him at the same time that he sees the dog that follows them.)

14. What do the man and boy find lined up along the wall in a deserted orchard?

15. Name at least 2 things the marching marauders wear or have with them as they travel down the road.

16. The man and boy find a cord coming out of a window of an abandoned house. To what is the cord attached?

17. At this same house, the man breaks open a lock and looks into the cellar. What does he find?

18. Walking through a field one day, the man steps on something that he is able to gather and eat. What did he find?

(He returns later with the boy to gather more.)

19. What happens when the man and boy see themselves in a mirror?

20. What does the man find one day when he digs into the earth in a place where the ground sounded hollow?

21. What does the man make for the gun?

22. Why does the man drag a mattress through a field?

23. To whom do the man and boy give a can of fruit cocktail?

24. Why do they run out of fuel for the stove?

25. What exciting thing does the boy find in the woods when he is exploring by himself?

26. In what direction are the man and boy walking?

27. During one burned up section of the road, the man and boy have a hard time making their way down the road because the road is full of litter. What is in the road?

28. One day the man and boy see four wretched adults near a bridge. Describe the woman.

29. What does the boy later find in the abandoned fire of the four people?

30. What items made of white quartz does the father find in the woods and give to his son?

31. Why are the man and boy disappointed when they finally see the ocean?

32. From where (country) had the boat come that the father finds and explores?

33. Name at least 3 things the father takes from the boat.

34. When the father and son walk to camp in the dark, the boy realizes he has forgotten something. What had he left behind that frightened the father so much that he retraced their steps to find it?

35. How were they later able to find their camp? (What sound did they hear?)

36. What interesting thing do the man and boy do one night after dark with something they took from the boat?

37. What happens to the boy the next day?

38. How does the father react when he discovers that someone has stolen their cart?

39. What does the father later make a man do? (This is the man who was dirty and holding a knife.)

40. Why does this upset the boy?

41. What happens when they go back and try to find the man?

42. What whistles past the man’s head as they are walking through a town?

43. What does the man do afterward?

44. What does the man do with the first aid box?

45. Why are the tall buildings leaning?

46. What does the boy do when he realizes his father is dying?

47. What does the father tell his son about talking to him?

48. What does the boy tell the new man that he is carrying? (It’s a metaphor.)

49. What advice does this man give the boy?

50. About what does the woman talk to the boy?

Be able to explain the significance of the following. Where in the book does it appear—what is happening?

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| 1 Motorcycle Mirror2 Coca-Cola3 Clocks4 Suicide5 flute6 Another little boy7 shot with pistol8 naked people huddled together9 map10 underground bunker11 Ely | 12 portable stove13 train14 dead baby15 arrow heads16 Ocean17 Pajaro de Esperanza18 Pistol19 arrow20 needle and thread21 tall buildings22 carrying fire |

Be able to answer the following:

1. Explain the title of the novel. Use specific incidents from the novel to support your statements.

2. McCarthy never assigns names to the two major characters. Explain why you think the characters remain

nameless. 3. Describe the setting of the novel. Use specific examples from the novel to support your statements. 4. Throughout the book, dreams were referred to several times. What is the symbolism of dreams and dreaming in *The Road*