

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* (2006)

Broad seminar questions.

In what sense and in what ways do you understand this novel as a work of petrofiction or 'about oil'? In what ways is it about 'resources'? (Anything works here, from themes, scenes, objects to events, style, tone, genre, etc.)

Why don't we get a fuller picture of the original disaster event? (54)

Why a *journey*? Why do they go where they go? Why a father and child? (163; 134-135; 202; 287)

In what sense and in what ways is the novel 'environmental'? (93; 138)

Is it ultimately a dystopian, pessimistic novel? A novel without hope or promise? ('Our Long Term Goals': 170-71)

Is it true to say that the novel is 'spiritual'? Or is this a 'godless' novel?

Read and discuss:

The scene in the Gas Station: 4-7; 229

The function of the oil company map: 43-44

The old gasoline can: 140-42; 144-45

Why is the bunker episode such a fundamental one in the novel? 146-48; 152; 154; 165

What do you make of the closing paragraph?

What have we missed here? Anything that we haven't covered, large or small?