**Death and Violence in The Road**

* The Road illustrates a setting where death and violence are the most prevalent factors
* The world is one of constant hostility in which life or death decisions have become a constant necessity
* The world is no longer vibrant but instead full of death illustrated by black tree limbs, ashen sky, grey ocean
* The looming threat of death is ever apparent throughout the Road, with scarce food driving humans to inhuman acts of cannibalism “They are going to rape us and kill us and eat us”
* The character of the boy is used to accentuate the horror of the world around him, he asks his father “are they going to kill us?” This is a heartbreaking display of innocence that contrasts sharply with a world where cannibalism, murder and rape are simply tools for survival
* The concept of taking one’s own life is a constant presence in The Road, and is used by McCarthy to portray a world so bleak and depressing that death is seen as a mercy, “could you crush that beloved skull with a rock?”, “Do it quick and hard”, “my only hope is for eternal nothingness”. The father contemplates the possibility that he might have to kill his son to protect him from the horrors of being captured by a cannibal tribe. The father instructs his son on how to use the revolver to commit suicide. Death is treated with cold acceptance rather than with a struggle for survival at all costs
* In the setting of the road virtually all animals, plants and humans have died due to a disaster that remains unknown throughout the text, as a result death is constantly present within the text
* Death is so present it is sometimes suggested as a character like when the woman describes her choice regarding committing suicide as death becoming her “new lover” showing that she loves the idea of death more then the idea of being with and being loved by her own family who live.
* Man in the text is slowly dying as it is suggested many times in the text that he is coughing up blood and throughout this continues to get worse and worse
* Death is always considered in the text. In the text the boy constantly questions whether they are going to die or not which shows the thought is always on his mind
* The horror of this theme is that in the face of a disaster/crisis who knows what we as humans will revert to as we are capable of unspeakable things.
* Choice that people make in this text is that they deal with violence
* The theme of death and violence overall makes the characters and readers of this text question the most basic principles of their own humanity