**11th grad Honors American Literature**

***The Road* Section 1: (Pages 3‐33)**

**Be sure to label all textual evidence with the page number.**

1. The two main characters are the man and the boy. Give at least 5 character traits to describe them. Include one piece of evidence for support for two traits per character. :

The man ie: cautious

The boy ie: young

2. Describe the setting of the novel. Include three specific details, and include textual evidence in your response:

3. The plot moves between real life, dreams, and memories. Give one example of each, and explain why the author includes it:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Real Life | Dreams | Memories |
| Quotation:  (McCarthy \_\_\_\_\_) | Quotation:  (McCarthy \_\_\_\_\_) | Quotation:  (McCarthy \_\_\_\_\_) |
| Explanation: | Explanation: | Explanation: |

4) What **judgments** can you make about the man’s character from the following quotation: “He sat by a gray window in the gray light in an abandoned house in the late afternoon and read old newspapers while the boy slept. The curious news. The] quaint concerns. At eight the primrose closes. He watched the boy sleeping. Can you do it? When the time comes? Can you?” (McCarthy 28‐29).

5) Think about the literary style of the book - there are no quotation marks to differentiate speech from the rest of the text, and sometimes punctuation is omitted. How does this style reflect the atmosphere and themes of the book?

6) “...[T]he blackened shapes of rock standing up out of the shoals of ash and billows of ash blowing down country through the waste.” (14) Why do you think McCarthy uses the imagery of the ocean to describe the landscape?

7) There are words being used in this novel which are new to our language - “scabland” (16), “bloodcults” (16) are some examples. What do these terms mean? Why is McCarthy combining words in this way?

8) “That the boy was all that stood between him and death?” (29) What does this mean?

9) Why doesnʼt McCarthy directly state the protagonist’s location?

10) “Not all dying words are true and this blessing is no less real for being shorn of its ground.” (31) To which dying words to you think he is referring? Who or what is the blessing? How do you know?

11) Define “godspoke men” (32)