



Quicklet - Cormac McCarthy's The Road

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Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less. The Road was written by Cormac McCarthy, a prolific writer with several acclaimed novels to his credit. McCarthy was born in Rhode Island on July 20, 1933. His given name was Charles McCarthy, his father's name, but he changed it to Cormac, meaning son of Charles, so as not to be confused with his father. He attended University of Tennessee but left after one year to serve in the military. He returned to college but left again to pursue a writing career. McCarthy published his first novel, *The Orchard Keeper*, in 1965, and received the William Faulkner Award. In 1979, he published his novel *Suttree* after struggling with it for 20 years. It's argued that this was his best novel and he's never surpassed it. However, with the publishing of *Blood Meridian* in 1985, McCarthy gained mainstream attention, and this novel was called one of the best novels of the 20th century by renowned critic Harold Bloom. McCarthy went on to publish his popular *Border Trilogy*. His novel *No Country for Old Men* (2005) was adapted to film by the Coen brothers and received several Academy Awards in 2007. McCarthy published *The Road* in 2006. The novel was adapted to film and released in 2009 to mixed reviews. **BOOK EXCERPT FROM THE CORMAC MCCARTHY QUICKLET: THE ROAD** On the road, the man and his son get to the top of a hill where they can see out over what used to be a city. It starts to rain. They leave the cart in a gully, covering it with the tarp, they huddle together under a rock overhang until the rain stops. They retrieve the cart and go back to where they were, making their camp in the dry dirt. The city disappears into the night and the man lights their little lamp. Since it's too wet to make a fire, they eat their meal cold. As the boy tries to fall asleep, he asks his father if they're going to die. His father says sometime but not now. He tells the boy they're going south to be warm and to go to sleep, turning off the lamp. The father listens in the dark to what the world has become, wishing he didn't feel anything. He wakes before dawn and watches as the gray day breaks. He walks out through the trees covering their camp and crouches, coughing for a long time. He asks God if he'll finally see him. Once they're awake, they walk through the city as the day progresses. The man keeps a pistol on top of the tarp folded in the cart. The city is mostly burned, showing no signs of life. They see a corpse, and the man tells the boy to be careful what he puts in his head as memories because they stay forever. ...to be continued! Quicklets: Learn More. Read Less.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

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