

The Use of Language in *The Road*



Discuss the deviations from “proper” grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation in the novel.

The almost total lack of punctuation Examples:	Meaning:
Sentence fragmentation Examples:	Meaning:
New words Examples:	Meaning (not of the words themselves):
Dialogue: often embedded in paragraphs, no quotation marks Examples:	Meaning:
No chapters or sections	

Analysis: The Father-Son Bond



How would the following affect the relationship between father and son?

The Real World	The World of <i>The Road</i>
Birth in a hospital; delivered by a doctor	Birth at home; delivered by the father
Home	Refugees fleeing a dying civilization
School	"Home" Schooled
Friends: in the neighborhood; at school	Friends: parents; later just his father
Law and order	Anarchy and lawlessness
Food, Shelter, etc. provided by parents	Food, Shelter, etc. scavenged from the ruins
Gradual maturity and independence	An orphan before reaching adulthood

Themes



Discuss the themes of the novel, especially why they are so relevant given the novel's setting.

Survival in a time of critical scarcity of resources as well as the absence of any external enforcement of order.

The Golden Rule: The differences between father and son regarding kindness to others; 'doing good' as a point of tension.

Integrity and survival: Telling the truth, never breaking promises. These are principles that the father teaches the son, but do they matter anymore?

Religion and Faith in the new reality: neither the father nor his son have any doubt of the existence of God. The opposite seems to be the rule for the other survivors in the story.

Other Theme(s)?