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Unconventional Bond

In the book, *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy we get to see how the boy and the man interact with each other in this estranged world. They don't have a conventional father-son relationship. The boy might be young but he is very mature and sometimes is the lead in the relationship. Throughout the whole book, we can see how their relationship changes when they are in certain situations.

The boy and the man I believe have a relationship where they both have an understanding that they take care of each other. When they were walking they came by a supermarket, and the man found a can of Coca-Cola. The man told the boy "It's a treat."(pg. 23) and sat down with him. The man knows that the boy has never had a can of Coke and knew that he would enjoy it. The man only really wants to make his boy happy and knew that this would be a once in a lifetime opportunity to have a can of soda. The boy did enjoy the Coca-Cola and told him " You have some, Papa. I want you to drink it. You have some."(pg. 23) The boy wanted the man to enjoy the moment with him, he wanted the man to also enjoy the can with him. They both care for each other and make sure they are both all right.

In the man's and boy's relationship even though the man is the parent, the boy sometimes has to be the adult and reel the man back into reality. They were walking south of the city, the man had walked him and the boy to his childhood house. The boy felt uneasy about going into the house saying "I'm scared", "There could be somebody here."(pg.25) The boy didn't want to

go in and he is often scared to enter homes. The boy didn't want to go in because there could be a high chance that there is someone in the house that will harm them. Instead of the man taking into account that this is a risk and how the boy felt, he gets held up in old memories of his old life and enters the house. The boy tells him again "We should go, Papa"(pg.26) and the man tells him "Yes,"(pg. 26) The man knows it's a bad idea to continue to look through the house and even tells the boy we should leave. The man wasn't thinking with his head and instead, he followed with his heart. Finally, when they came to his bedroom and opened the closet door and saw that the roof had fallen apart, the boy asked again to leave and the man agreed, at this point the boy was terrified and the man told him "It's all right. We shouldnt have come"(pg. 27) The man even though he's the adult, the boy was the only one thinking straight. There was no reason for them to be there, yet the man wanted to visit the home.

McCarthy shows that the boy and the man both have a great deal of care for each other. They have an undeniable bond because of the apocalyptic world and they only have each other. He also shows that kids can play a big part in the relationship and can often be at times the parent. The boy and the man's relationship can be a great example of that.