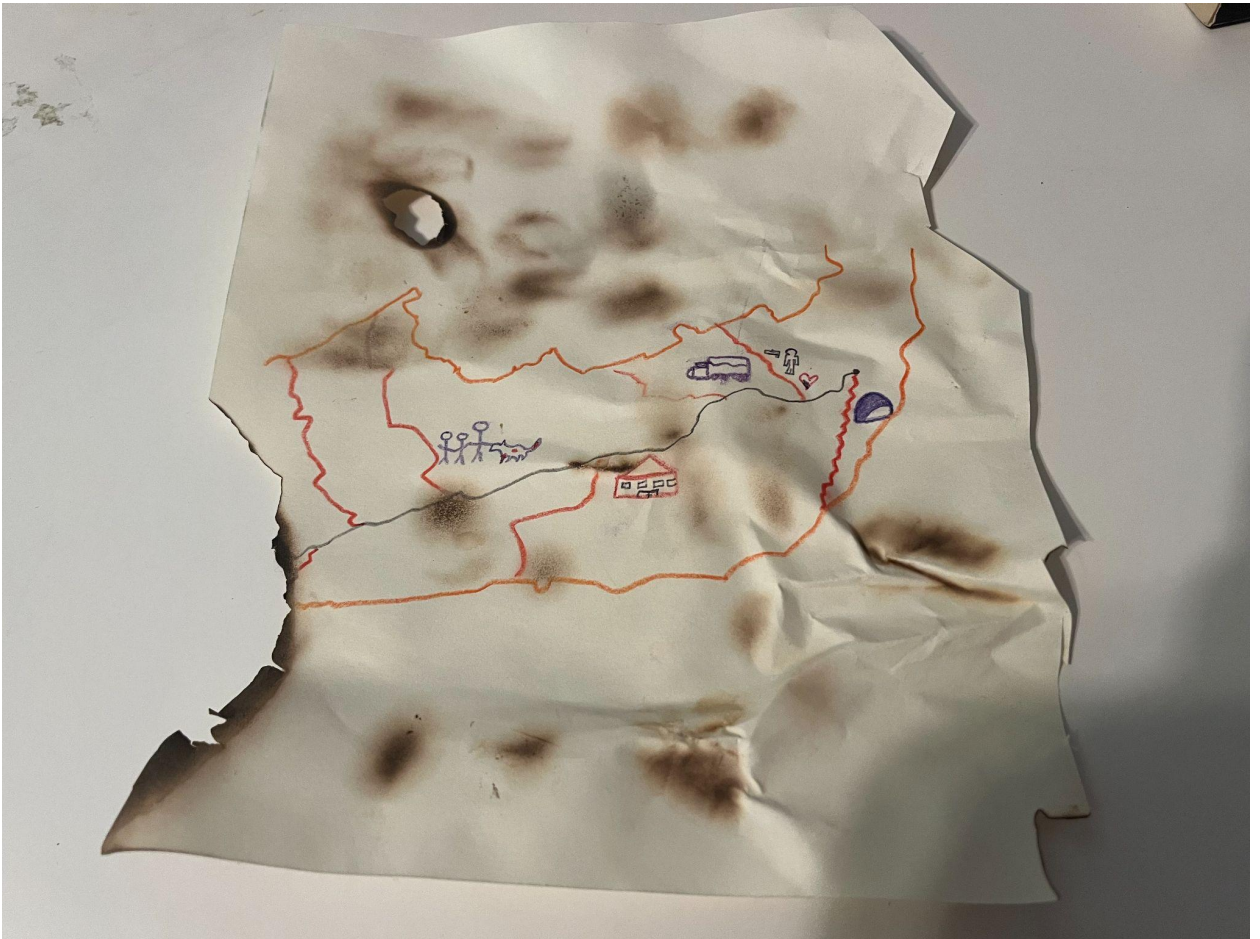


Map of the End of the World



As a person who heavily relies on a map to get around the city, I thought it made perfect sense for me to create a map that represents Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. The two main characters' trek through an unknown area using solely the road to get to their destination is a unique premise in need of a visual representation of what this vital sheet would look like.

The map is hastily cut and vaguely drawn to represent the state of the man's mind and the frantic pace of an apocalypse. This map couldn't be perfectly accurate to the land and had to seem roughed up a bit to match the state of the man's mind. As the man stresses, "Make a list. Recite a litany. Remember" (McCarthy 31). This key scene lets the reader know how far gone the man's head is and how life threatening the world is for him and his son because of it.

Furthermore, the map features noticeable burns and water damage. I wanted these effects to not represent just the environment, but the mindset of the man. Towards the end of the road the map is burned and the end is indiscernible, a likeliness to what the man thinks of their journey. Throughout the novel the man says he only chooses to live through this chaotic world for his son, even going so far as to say, "I was appointed to do that by God" and "There'd be no

surviving another winter here" (McCarthy 77 and 4). His lack of hope and self obligation to ensure his son's life cause him to internally fight himself to get them to an end, no matter how much he doesn't believe in an end.

Another crucial scene is one where the man's heart is threatened; his son. The boy is held hostage by the man in the paint mask and is almost taken until the man shoots him dead without hesitation. I chose to represent this with a darkening heart because that is what the man feels. Whenever the boy is in danger *he* is in danger, as said by the man, "That is my job", he puts his desire to live completely in the life of his son (McCarthy 74). He feels as though, if he didn't, what would be the point in continuing his struggle to survive.

As an added addition to the map I chose to represent these moments in deviants from the road. Each time the man and boy physically or mentally deviated from the road it left their marks on them. Alongside this symbolic touch I added fire burns and sprayed the paper with water. These effects are due to their constantly changing environment and the things that determine their decreasingly low survival rate. All in all, the man and boy's map isn't something that is entirely set in stone, but my adaption of the map is as vague and scrawled as the novel, something I hope McCarthy would appreciate.