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College English
12/02/2022

The boy and the man run into another man on the road one morning, they see this man who was struck by lightning. The boy wants to help this man while the father knows there is nothing that can be done and won't help regardless. This speaks to the humility still left in the boy and leads us to wonder when exactly this boy was born, before the apocalypse or during it. He still has hope and belief in morals, or what he has of them. There is an innocence still shown in this. The man however knows the reality of this scary world and the fact that you can only look out for yourself. He has had to forge on and survive for not only himself but also his son, he holds very little faith in the world, people, and god. There is the first time so far in the book that we are introduced to another person, the man and his son have yet to encounter another human. Even though there are several mentions of being chased by something, presumed bad people. It's interesting that this first appearance is someone that doesn't stay long in their journey. The boy is distraught over this encounter and the man seems to not even be phased, as if this new dark world has only given him remorse and care for his son. This makes me wonder about the future of their story, and the likelihood that something like this will happen again. Where the boy will want to do something out of the goodness of his heart and the man will stop him. It's hard to say who is right in the situation, there is no good or bad side to this. It's not as if the man was a terrible person for turning away from this man and the boy wasn't necessarily good for wanting to help him. We know absolutely nothing about the strange man and even so it was mostly certainly true that there was nothing that could be done for him. Had the boy attempted to help him, would that really have done any good? Would it have just given him false hope? It's clear that in this world hope is the biggest killer, from what we know there is nothing to hope for. The boy however is too naive to know the truth about his situation, bringing back to the fact that he likely was born post- apocalypse. This will likely be something that deeply affects the relationship between the father and son. And even whether or not the son is able to survive in this cruel world. The father is aware of what needs to be done to stay alive, but given the fact that he isn't doing well, which we find out later, will the boy be able to take on the weight his father has been shielding him from. The morality of the boy and the father's lack of it is clearly a major theme of *The Road*.

