

Mariely Ortiz-Barbosa
Ms.Giknis B Band
12/9/22

One passage in the book the road that I found interesting was “They walked into the little clearing, the boy clutching his hand. They'd taken everything with them except whatever black thing was skewered over the coals. He was standing there checking the perimeter when the boy turned and buried his face against him. He looked quickly to see what had happened. What is it? he said. What is it? The boy shook his head. Oh Papa, he said. He turned and looked again. What the boy had seen was a charred human infant headless and gutted and blackening on the spit. He bent and picked the boy up and started for the road with him, holding him close. I'm sorry, he whispered. I'm sorry.” on page 198. This scene started off as many in the book have, with the man venturing into a new unknown environment and the boy afraid of what they may find. I expected either something really good or something really bad because as we have seen in the past that both are just as likely however this turned out to be the worst discovery made so far. The book had mentioned cannibalism and other dark themes a few times however I did not expect them to find a charred infant of all things. This was definitely the most disturbing scene in the book, set up perfectly by Cormac McCarthy. He described the setting in vivid detail “litte clearing”, “black thing skeward over the coals”, this provides a much darker setting for the reader so we already know that what they are going to find is something unplesant. Then McCarthy proceeds to describe the finding in even more detail “charred”, “headless”, “gutted”. This author clearly is not afraid to make his stories dark and he is very specific when bringing up these dark themes.

Another passage that I found interesting was on page 190 “What you put in your head is there forever? Yes. It's okay Papa. It's okay? They're already there. I dont want you to look. They'll still be there. He stopped and leaned on the cart. He looked down the road and he looked at the boy. So strangely untroubled. Why dont we just go on, the boy said. Yes. Okay. They were trying to get away werent they Papa? Yes. They were. Why didnt they leave the road? They couldnt. Everything was on fire. They picked their way among the mummied figures.”. The main reason why this passage stood out to me was because of that phrase “What you put in your head is there forever”. This is the second time that McCarthy chose to include this phrase in the book and as I read I started to notice that this pattern of repetition comes up often with this author. Any important lessons or phrases get repeated alot throughout the book. Another example of this that particularly lead me to this conclusion was the phrase “take a look”. This leads readers to naturally attempt to make conjectures on what this lesson is that the man is trying to teach the boy so repetitively and why it is so important. These phrases seem to be put into the book very intentionally by McCarthy in order to make the reader think, making it more of an engaging read.