

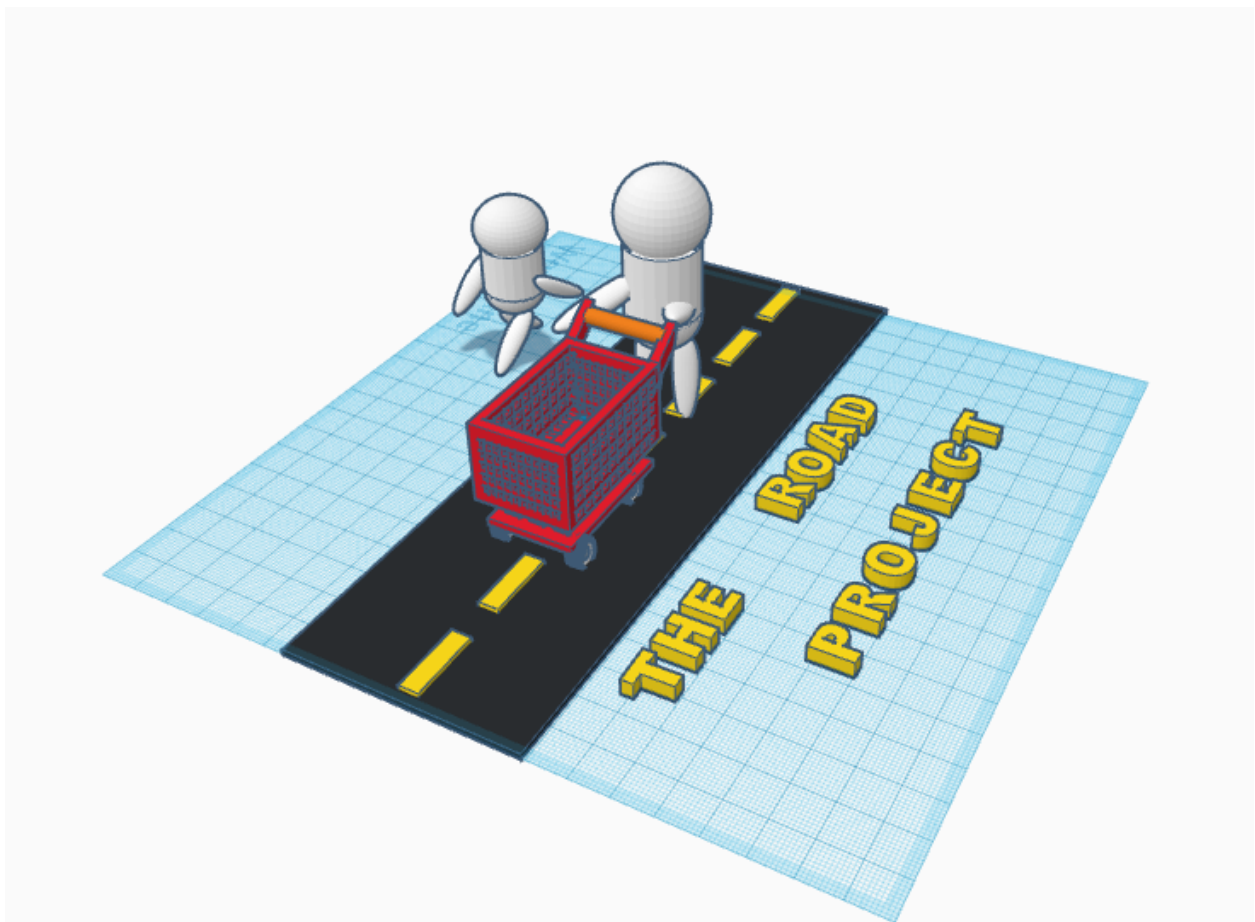
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The symbolism of the road in *The Road*



Above you can see a computer-designed image of the man and the boy walking down the road. I chose this image because it is obviously the main aspect of a book titled "*The Road*".

Throughout the whole book we are watching as the man and the boy seek a better life, and the whole time they believe the satisfaction they look for will be at the end of this road. Because of

this persistence, they have for the journey it has to be asked what the road really means. Why has McCarthy chosen these characters to tirelessly walk down the road and never stray from it? In one section of the book, the man and the boy have very little to themselves. They are low on food and have no safe place to stay. After eating the last of their food the boy looks at the man and asks;

“Are we going to die now?

No.

What are we going to do?

We're going to drink some water. Then we're going to keep going down the road.

Okay.”

As we can see here the road is the only answer to the boy's questions. It is the only plan that the man has for their survival. I think this can give us a look into the symbolism of what the road means. Always being the answer for them, and giving them a reason to keep on living. I think the road symbolizes the human instinct for survival. Because of this, we can see the importance of the road and how it's important to the story.