**PROMPT**: His most compelling, moving, and accessible novel since All the Pretty Horses…McCarthy brilliantly captures the knife edge that fugitives in a hostile world stand on…Amid this \*Godot-like bleakness, McCarthy shares something vital and enduring about the boy’s spirit, his father’s love, and the nature of bravery itself.

\*Godot-allusion to ***Waiting for Godot***, a play by [Samuel Beckett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Beckett), in which two characters, [Vladimir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_(Waiting_for_Godot)) and[Estragon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estragon), wait endlessly and in vain for the arrival of someone named Godot.(Little God). who never comes. The simplicity and ambiguity of the play has led to many interpretations since the play's 1953 première.

**THESIS (aka AT&T Intro for timed essays)**:

In Cormac McCarthy’s odyssey, *The Road*, the vital and enduring nature of the boy’s spirit, the father’s love, and quality of bravery combine to tell an indelibly compelling and emotionally potent story.

**OPENING STRATEGY: #12 Contrast between past and present**

Cormac McCarthy’s novel, *The Road*, opens in a world covered with gray ash, incinerated bits of an old world once covered in grass, trees, and flowers and populated with people going about their daily lives heedless to the burnt and demented future that awaits them.

**INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH: THE FINISHED PRODUCT ☺**

Cormac McCarthy’s novel, *The Road*, opens in a world covered with gray ash, incinerated bits of an old world once covered in grass, trees, and flowers and populated with people going about their daily lives heedless to the burnt and demented future that awaits them. In McCarthy’s compelling odyssey, the vital and enduring nature of the boy’s spirit, the father’s love, and the admirable quality of bravery combine to tell an indelible story.