

Summer Reading

Booker T. Washington High School
2019-2020 Rising Seniors (Grade 12)

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

The Road: A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other.

The Road is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

We recommend that you:

- **PURCHASE THE BOOK NOW!** Books can be in short supply and libraries will have long “hold” lists, especially by the end of summer.
- Go in together with a friend and share the expense and the book.
- See if the title is available for purchase in used book stores or even in local libraries.

Take notes! Keep a dialectical journal as you read.

Expectations for the beginning of the school year – *As you read and take notes, look for evidence about **the complexity of familial relationships, the journey, and the loss of innocence and how these aspects affect the meaning of the work as a whole.** *Focusing on this will help you prepare for class discussions and writing assignments. *Your notes will help you prepare for the exam over the book. *Your teacher will tell you when to turn in your notes.