Mr. Thom: All throughout the novel there seems to be allusions to Christianity:

“If he is not the word of God, then God never spoke”
“Yes I am–I am the one!”
The boy rises and gets back on the road 3 days after his father’s death.

Is the boy a Christ figure? If so, how does the boy die and then resurrect?

Liam Badger: What does the father mean by “the fire”? Why is the fire so crucial to the novel/story line?

Aidan Flaugh: There is an always present feeling of fear and uneasiness in the novel. The only moment when this briefly goes away is when they find the bunker. What role does fear play in them leaving the bunker and why is it a more controlling/driving feeling than safety or comfort for the father?

Sam Russell: How does the choice not to name the characters play a role in the story, and does it change how the book is read?

HannahJulia Woodward: As the story progresses, the idea of a “destination” along the road continues. What is their final destination? Does this change after their arrival to the oceanside?

Alina Valdez - If the mom was so against them living on why didn't she take the boy with her? Why did she leave her son to suffer with the dad? Was it her punishing him for what he forced her to do?

Noah Link - What is the significance of the use of polysyndeton throughout the novel? Why does McCarthy refrain from the use of punctuation, other than the occasional comma and necessary period, throughout the book?

Noah Link - Why does McCarthy seemingly misspell the words ‘dont’ and ‘cant’ by disregarding an apostrophe?

Carter Griffin: How does that father keep the boy's fire alive even as his dies out?

Olga Sorbala: Why are they going south? Why is the south significant? What do they hope to find there?

Elizabeth: how does the boy and father maintain their affection for faith in each other in such brutal conditions? Is faith the reason the boy has the “fire” even after he lost his father?

Anastasia: Why does the boy, from the beginning of the story, seem to fear the houses him and his father go into?

Ava: Who needed the other more, the father or the son? How did the shifting dynamics of their relationship contribute to the overall theme of relationships?

Livvi: What is the purpose of the continuous falling ash throughout the storyline and the season it is set in. Did the author set this in allusions to death and coldness?

Mikey J: How does the natural need for human connection and love play into the ending of the book, and the young boys new future with the a new family?

Jen Z: Is the dog a symbol of hope? How does the difference in the father and son's reaction to the barking symbolizing hope/fear?

Arian R: During The Road what is the significance of the fire that is mentioned by the father and the son and why does it play an important role during the whole book?

Henry Reidy: The title of the book itself is quite literal, as the book is about the long trek down the road, but what could "The Road" mean metaphorically? In what way are we on our own roads?

Alex Stumpf: How does the "role reversal" between the father and son enhance the progression of the story? (the son taking a father role)

Elly Scala: What is the significance of the bunker with food and supplies? Does the fathers decision to leave reflect as a strength or weakness to his character?

Adeline Bradley: The father consistently references himself as some sort of alien, someone from a different world, what is the message behind him separating his identity from that of his son's?

Ori Bennett: How is the conversation between the father and the man he shot to save his son significant in the father's character development? How does this in the long run affect the son? How does this first act of necessary violence begin to drive the father and son's morals farther apart?

Jake Faulk: How does McCarthy display the relative value of life through the actions of characters in the novel?

John Lugo : On the road the man and the boy run into a sardonic old man named Ely, he tells the father that "There is no god, and we are his prophets" What does he mean by this?

Evan Jackson: How does the looming of death affect the outside view of the actions taken by the main characters?

Beth Krankota: What is the purpose of the loose, grammatically incorrect dialogue throughout the novel?

Sophia Kelly: How is the dynamic between the father and son especially difficult for the father because he knows what the world was like before the apocalypse? Is this one of the main themes of the story? Why does Mcormick exemplify this specific aspect of their relationship?

Cadence Adams: What is the significance of the father's death to the boy? How does it truly affect the entirety of the story and develop the importance of his life? If it was the mother instead of the father and she died towards the end of the novel, would it have a more powerful impact?

Michael Green: The fire is a continuous symbol in this novel. What is another symbol that's just as important and how is it influential to the reader's experience?

Ethan LaGrone: The fire is a common motif throughout The Road and by the end, the fire has extinguished within the dad, what realizations does the father come to throughout the story and why does it cause his downfall?

Cal Cherry: Was the mother morally correct or incorrect for the way she chose to go out. Was it fair to keep the child in such a horrible world?

Max Klein: What is the significance of the final arrival to the sea?

Levi Stutzman: What is the purpose of the fake bullets in the gun?

Anthony Carranco: What is the significance of the boy's innocence throughout the book given their circumstances?

Lucy Girkin: Throughout the entire book the goal is to get to the coast, what is the significance of this? What does the coast represent and what happens when they arrive? Why do you think this happened?