

***All the Pretty Horses* Close Reading Practice**

Reprinted below is the opening paragraph to *All the Pretty Horses*. Carefully read the passage, underlining any words/phrases that seem important, paying particular attention to any literary devices present (such as imagery). After you have underlined the text, write your observations about the text you underlined in the margins.

The candleflame and the image of the candleflame caught in the pierglass twisted and righted when he entered the hall and again when he shut the door. He took off his hat and came slowly forward. The floorboards creaked under his boots. In his black suit he stood in the dark glass where the lilies leaned so palely from their waisted cutglass vase. Along the cold hallway behind him hung the portraits of forebears only dimly known to him all framed in glass and dimly lit above the narrow wainscoting. He looked down at the guttered candlestub. He pressed his thumbprint in the warm wax pooled on the oak veneer. Lastly he looked at the face so caved and drawn among the folds on funeral cloth, the yellowed moustache, the eyelids paper thin. That was not sleeping. That was not sleeping.

Written Response:

Taking your observations into account, write a response in which you analyze how McCarthy uses language to create a particular effect in the opening moments of the novel. Remember to name the effect(s) you are discussing and to include specific text examples in your response.