**The Road—What Should we Know by Now**

**Pages 1-100**

* Protagonist: The Man and The Boy
* Setting: Post-Apocalyptic America
* Setting: World is covered in ash, there is little light, it is cold, the environment is unpredictable
* The Man and The Boy are fighting for survival, therefore they are moving South. They carry their essential items in the backpack and all other items in the cart.
* The world they live in is dangerous. Evidence: they look out for light and others, the motorcycle mirror attached to the cart, fear of others such as blood-cults & cannibals, the incident with the road rat, the skulls on the wall, the army of tennis shoes
* Their resources are limited. For example they are excited when they find morels (mushrooms) and the child has never had coca-cola, the man says that they cannot help the lightening man.
* The wife has died (self-inflicted). She gave up hope for the future and could no longer go on.
* The man believes the boy is his warrant: as a result the boy is his hope for the future.
* Light and dark imagery: throughout the boy is surrounded by light in the dark world. He is goodness in the evil world.
* Awful acts committed are the darkness: The road rat trying to harm the boys, the other men eating the road rat (pg 71), etc.
* The boy wants to be the good guys, wants to help others, and is concerned with morals: the light.
* Pg 83: Symbol: carrying the fire. The fire is hope and goodness
* The environment can also be dangerous: earthquake, trees falling, weather, etc. This is a form of conflict
* Items they carry with them include: the pistol, 2 bullets (use one on the Road Rat), binoculars, slutlamp & oil when they find it, food in tins, knife, masks to wear, tarps and blankets.
* Items that no longer have value: $$ (a symbol of the past societal values), identification cards, memories (are they a help or hindrance for the man?)

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| **Character Traits of the boy**   * Young * Innocent * Grew up in the post-apocalyptic world * Wants to help others (i.e. lightening man) * Unaware of the past world * Fearful * Reliant on the father * Wants to be good * Does not want to harm others (i.e. the dog) * Focused on survival   **Character Traits of the man** |