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ENG-3110-1 American Novels

### American Novels ePortfolio Assignment Topic

The topic that I chose to write about for my American Novels ePortfolio Assignment is the overall identity from a character from one of our Novels that we have read so far and discussed in class overall too. When it comes to that specific character that I have chosen to discuss from that certain Novel, that would be Eli from *The Road* along with his Dad as well a little bit too contributing to Eli along with an overall profile of him throughout the Novel from beginning to end with all the different kinds of things and events that Eli has experienced growing up and learned too with his Father (McCarthy).

When it comes to the character of Eli as a whole throughout *The Road* when relating to his overall identity from the beginning to the end of the book, there are lots of various different factors that played a role in it which include one being his overall family background with the kind of family he grew up in which was, as mentioned in the book, with mostly his Father throughout practically the entire book along with the kind of conditions they were living in which were overall not great at all most of the time which involved moving from place to place where they stayed and slept in some shelters in various areas along with also staying and sleeping outside in others which included some hunting involved where they ended up finding lots of various different kinds of

useful items along the way, some of which they ended up keeping and taking with them in a cart with some of those things consisting of blankets and even food too such as various different kinds of fruit along with lots of water too that they ended up finding in one of the shelters that they ended up staying in that Eli and his Father ended up feeling pretty grateful to have with also some other additional things too in that shelter such as beds, a working kitchen stove, and also a bathroom as well with a bath in it with also bedrooms with beds for each of them as well (McCarthy). Along with that, another thing that would also relate to that of the overall character of Eli which would play a role in determining that of his overall character with how it was and came to be would be the way he was raised and brought up by his Father throughout the whole book from beginning to end with all the various different sights and things that he experienced and saw himself and also that his Father showed him and taught him about of life and the whole world around him while he was growing into manhood depending on what specific age he was which would play a role in making his Father think it would be the right time to teach him about it which would also be very helpful too with his growth and development into manhood too for becoming independent by doing more and more things on his own from time to time (McCarthy). When it comes to some examples of those various different kinds of things that Eli experiences himself with also what his Father shows him too and all the various things that he teaches Eli during his transition into manhood, one would be the part in the book when Eli and his Father see a man who they said looked like he had been struck by lightning possibly where when they walk by him, Eli said to his Dad that they should help him where his Father keeps

saying to Eli that they should not be helping him and let him be and go where they then both go on with primarily the Father thinking about how that man was even gonna possibly survive after that (McCarthy). Along with that, a second example would be when Eli's Father taught and showed him about putting the past behind and always looking forward with an example from the book being when Eli's Father found a bunch of past photos along with some other various past things he had that he ends up dropping on the ground of where they were standing where they then leave it all there on the ground and continue on (McCarthy). Another thing that Eli's Father also taught him regarding these points would be all the times when Eli's Father tells him and always wants him to know that they are not alone and there could also be many Fathers and sons living just like they are in the same ways (McCarthy). Along with that with what Eli's Father wants him to learn and see growing up, there were also some things that Eli's Father did not want him to see too which he thinks could affect his growth and development with one example from the book being at one of the shelters they stayed at where they see a lot of dead and almost dead people where Eli's Father tries not to show any of it to him which could end up staying in his head and be remembered forever (McCarthy). Another thing that Eli's Father teaches him which also plays a role in shaping his overall identity and self would be when he taught him about what good and bad both mean and the differences between them with also never predicting and expecting what might happen next at any point in life along with how your past can determine your future and shape what you might do and become for the rest of your life (McCarthy). Lastly, one more final thing that would determine Eli's overall Identity with

who he became overall would be how his Father felt like he raised and brought him up by feeling if he did do a good job with it overall or not as a Father with it which was, as stated in the book, him doing a pretty relatively good job overall from doing various things which include teaching his son Eli the difference between that of good and bad as previously mentioned and also even saying at the end of the book that he will continue and carry life on right to Eli before his Father dies (McCarthy).

## Works Cited

McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006.