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Ms. Giknis

English 4

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### **The Road: APOCALYPTIC PLAYLIST**

For my lit log, I choose to do an apocalyptic playlist which is a playlist about the book. This playlist must include, *Cat's in the Cradle* by Harry Chapin, *Stand by Me* by Ben E. King, *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers, *Almost Home* by Craig Morgan, and *I Will Survive* by Gloria Gaynor. All of these songs represent *The Road* in different ways.

*Cat's in the Cradle* must be included in this playlist because of the meaning behind the song. The chorus of the song ends with "He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, dad" "You know I'm gonna be like you" which is how the child seems to act when with his father at times. The boy seems like he will turn into his father since for most of the book so far they only interact with each other. Unlike the song, the father spends a lot of time with the boy, but their relationship still seems like it will turn out the way since the boy will be trying to get on with things while the father is still holding him back a little. Although *Cat's in the Cradle* and *The Road* go through different journeys, they still represent each other in multiple ways.

Another song that must be in my playlist is *Stand by Me* because as the title says the two people in the song must stand by each other. In *The Road*, the father and the boy must stand by each other's side in order to survive. Throughout the book they rarely ever leave each other, and when they do the person that stays back is there so they do not lose their camp overnight. As

more happens, the man and the boy keep using each other as a support system they both keep on going. In *Stand by Me*, the singer wants the person he is talking to stand by him as a support system to lift some of his pain off of him. There are many similarities between *The Road* and *Stand by Me*, and they represent each other well.

*Lean on Me* is a song about how we all need someone to lean on no matter how old we are. There will always be a time when someone else could help instead of just trying to get it done by ourselves. In *The Road*, both the father and son find times where they need to lean on each other for support since they are struggling, or they just need a thought check. Since they only have each other they find themselves on many occasions leaning on each other.

Also, you have to include *Almost Home*. “He had plastic bags wrapped 'round his shoes” is the first line in song, and is also how the father and boy wrap their feet to trudge through the snow. For the rest of the song you feel like you are going on a journey with these men since you hear about the different parts making up their journey. *The Road* is about a journey which we get to experience with the father and the boy. Both *Almost Home*, and *The Road* both give us a journey that we get to go through with the characters.

Finally, if you are making a playlist about a survival story you have to include *I Will Survive* which is about survival. This song shows the toughness on how when something changes dramatically you still have to persevere through all the pain and negativity that is happening. In *The Road*, the father is facing the same feeling because his world changed completely yet he still pursued trying to get to safety. He wanted to get to a place where he could live with the boy without any fear of being killed or captured.

## **Work Cited**

- **McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road (Oprah's Book Club)*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2006.**