**Sample Style Imitation Scene**

**Paragraph of Intent:** This scene would appear in the middle of page 111, just after the man and the boy left the cannibal’s basement. The bearded man who asks for their help saw the man drop the lighter, or “offering” (McCarthy 110), and decides to pick it up. In addition to demonstrating some of the hallmarks of McCarthy’s style: short sensory sentence (fragments), lack of quotation marks, slightly strange use of prepositions, polysyndeton when detailing actions, and use of similes to compare the old world to the new. The passage uses only simple and compound sentences, and simple diction, with the exception of “putrid” air and “pitiless” light, which maintains the elevated diction and personification used to describe nature in text. The emphasis on sensory is fitting as the man “saw and did not see” (McCarthy 109) everything in the house, and this scene marks a turning point in the novel, as the man “studies” only the map, rather than relying on nature and his sense from this point forward in the book. The bearded man’s failed attempt to use the lighter proves my thesis: in *The Road*, McCarthy’s use of “study” reveals man’s flawed attempts to control nature as true understanding only exists when study, and man, works in concert with nature and the senses. Stuck in the basement, isolated from nature, the man is blinded by the light and only able to read the stupid and obvious warning label. If man and nature do not work together, all things can been seen but not understood.

**Style Imitation Scene:**

The bearded man groped the ground for the offering. He saw a glint of silver in the last sliver of light as the door slammed from above. Stainless steel, then dark. His fingers closed around the lighter and he picked it up and brought it to his face and flicked it. Nothing. The smell of kerosene added into the already putrid air. He clicked it again. The blaze was blinding and he almost dropped it. The man blinked in the pitiless light. The others scurried away protecting their faces from the blaze. The bearded man saw only light and then letters began to come into focus like a hazy mirage in the desert sun. WARNING: FLAME MAY CAUSE FIRE.

Christ. Shut that off why dont you.

The voice came from in the mattress. More corpse than man. The bearded man pulled the letters and lighter from his face and now singed beard. He flicked the lighter off. Darkness again. His fingers followed the trail of mortar joints in the cinderblock along the wall until he found the corner and the others. Together again.