**Style Analysis and Imitation Essay on *The Road***

As you read *The Road*, you will be asked to analyze one of the following elements of the author’s style. After we finish the novel you will write two things: an additional scene that could have appeared in *The Road* that clearly demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of McCarthy’s writing style (featuring your chosen element of style), and an analytical (i.e. thesis-based) essay on the significance of that element of style in the work as a whole.

**Elements of Style:**

**Narrative Structure/Elements**

-Ellipses (scene breaks)

-Structure (of the text as a whole, the chronology/pacing; integration of narration and dream v. reality)

-Point of view (watch out--it shifts)

-Tone (there are at least two distinct ones)

-Diction (unconventional word choice and part of speech usage)

 -active v. passive word choice (“was” v. “took” a long time going to sleep)

 -archaic/technical word choice

**Sentence Structure**

-Comma Usage

-Sentence Length

-Sentence Fragments/Run-ons

-Word Order (within sentences, i.e. “each the other’s world entire” [McCarthy 6])

-Passive Voice

-Parallel Structure

**Parts of Speech**

-Compound Words

-Prepositions

-Pronouns

-Demonstratives (this v. that)

**Figurative Language**

-Alliteration

-Simile

-Personification

-Repetition

-Idioms

-Asyndeton/Polysyndeton (essentially the use of “and”)

-Ambiguity (of pronouns among other things)

**Punctuation**

-Contractions/apostrophes

-Quotations

-Fancy Punctuation (colons, question marks, etc.)

Your imitation essay will require you add a scene to *The Road*. Change the ending, “fix” a scene that doesn’t fit or you don’t like, add an additional flashback—your call. Your scene should consistently and clearly be modeled after McCarthy’s use of syntax and diction. There should be a clear connection between your purpose in writing the scene and your use of syntax and diction (i.e. your essay should model the style and significance of the element of McCarthy’s style you’re writing your analytical essay about).

**Factors that Affect Style:**

1. *Ways of Shaping Sentences:* long / short, simple / complex, many modifiers / few modifiers, normal word order / frequent inversions or interruptions, mostly main clauses / many embedded phrases and subordinate clauses (use of however, therefore, and other subordinate conjunctions).
2. *Types of Words*: abstract / concrete, formal / colloquial, unusual / ordinary, specialized / general, metaphoric / literal, scientific / literary.
3. *Narrator’s Implied Personality*: expert / layperson, scholar / student, outsider / insider, political liberal / conservative, neutral observer / active participant.
4. *Narrator’s implied relationship with the Reader and the Subject Matter (i.e.* tone): intimate / distant, personal / impersonal, angry / calm, browbeating / sharing, informative / entertaining, humorous / serious, ironic / literal, passionately involved / aloof.