

The Road Pages

200-219

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3B

Thematic Concepts/ Important Subjects

DEATH

“The sleep of death. He sat up reaching about for the pistol. In the leaden evening he stood leaning with his elbows on the cart handle and looking across the fields at a house perhaps a mile away.” (202)

- In the road, there are always hints of death. The author always seems to bring it up at night time, when everyone should be sleeping, and have their guard down. So that they don't slip up, the man is keeping the pistol in order to prolong their death.

“At night when he woke coughing he'd sit up with his hand pushed over his head against the blackness. Like a man waking in a grave. Like those disinterred dead from his childhood that had been relocated to accommodate a highway.” (213)

- This quote is showing the reader the thoughts that the Man has going on in his head, his life is so rough, that even in his dreams about what will soon be his reality. Also this is death with the coughing, as that is how he will meet his maker.

LOVE

- “The boy drank and handed it back. Drink some more. You drink some, Papa”(201)
- “I don’t want to go there Papa. There's no one there. I promise. How do you know? I just know. They could be there. No they're not. It will be okay.”(203)
- “There's no one here, the man said. Okay. Are you still scared? Yes. We're okay. Okay.”(204)
- In order for the boy and the Man to continue on their journey and be able to keep a sane mindset, they need to know that they have each other. The author shows this by all the different gestures and interactions that happen between them. The readers can tell that they love and care deeply about one another.

Motifs

GRA

Y

- ❑ “Motionless and gray”(200)
- ❑ “...he looked about at the gray country and the gray sky and he dropped the coin and hurried on to catch up.”(204)
- ❑ “Out there was the
- ❑ gray beach with the slow combers rolling dull and leaden and the distant sound of it.”(215)
- ❑ “ And perhaps beyond those shrouded swells another man did walk with another child on the dead gray sands.”(219)
- ❑ The recurrence of Gray in the story helps develop the story and give context about the feel of the story which is gloomy and kind o

DARK

- “Dark and black and trackless where it crossed the open country. The winds had swept the ash and dust from the surface.”(202)
- “Then he took a drink himself and put the lid back on and took the boy's hand and they entered the darkened hall.”(205)
- “He hoped it would be brighter where for all he knew the world grew darker daily.”(213)
- “Great squid propelling themselves over the floor of the sea in the cold darkness.”(219)
- In this story, dark represents the end. It's basically the end of the world and everything that was once light now seems to be dark.

Symbols

CART

- “He got a cloth from the cart and a plastic jar and came back and wrapped the cloth over the mouth of the jar and sank it in the water and watched it fill.”(201)
- “In the leaden evening he stood leaning with his elbows on the cart handle and looking across the fields at a house perhaps a mile away.”(202)
- The cart represents the life or the boy and the man. It is constantly coming up because in a way, it is the only thing left that is theirs. It gives a sense of hope that one day maybe they could have something more that is theirs.

BABY

- “The boy said: If we had that little baby it could go with us. Yes. It could. Where did they find it? He didnt answer. Could there be another one somewhere? I dont know. It's possible.”(200)
- The baby represents another lifetime in this book. Since the world is pretty none existent and the most of the people left have gone crazy in some way, the possibility of a baby is pretty rare. When the boy sees the baby it brings up a question that has never crossed his mind and kind of confuses him to why he has never seen one before now.

Literary Devices

IMAGERY

- “The field had been turned a last time and there were stalks of stubble sticking out of the ground and the faint trace of the disc was still visible from east to west.”(203)
- “They had clothes and blankets and pillows from the upstairs rooms and they fitted themselves out in new attire, the boy's trousers cut to length with his knife. He made a nesting place in front of the hearth, turning over a tallboy chest to use as a headboard for their bed and to hold the heat.”(212)
- The imagery in this book gives the reader a better understanding of the surrounding and situations they boy and the man face. In my pages, we got to see the boy and the man discover a house and find different resources that could help them on their journey.

REPETITION

- “Everything's okay, he whispered. Everything's okay.”(208)
- This quote shows that the man has to repeat encouraging words to not only reassure the boy, but make himself believe that everything is okay.

Discussion Questions

How does the boy's
fascination with
the baby help
develop the story?

Why does the author make the boy seem paranoid when they enter the house?

During these pages you can clearly see that the boy and the man love each other, why do you think the author never made them say 'I love you'?

Why do you think
them getting to the
beach is their end
goal?

Why does the author include the flashback of the man and the wife on page 219?

Paper 2: Discuss the importance of the journey as an organizing structure in at least two works you have studied.