



In the novel *The Road* the author, Cormac McCarthy, puts a father and his son in a post-apocalyptic world where they journey to an undefined place. Knowing that their journey has no end to it, the two characters keep pushing forward past multiple bumps on the road hoping to find some type of food or resources to help them. As the man and the son were on their journey on the road they decided to stop at a place where they saw a truck. As they approached the truck they found another man. The guy claims to be harmless but the father still didn't let his guard down, unlike his son where he believes in the good in people. The guy could see that the son was leaving his guard down so he decided to snatch him up and put a knife to his neck. The man lifted his gun up at the guy that was using his son as hostage, and shot. Luckily he hit the man and did not harm the boy. This part of the novel is a great turning point for the boy and his character development because he is usually the hopeful innocent character, but after being used as a hostage and watching a man's brains get shot by his own dad made the boy realize the situation he was in. The man even quotes how the man realizes the situation he is in and what he has to do to survive, the man says "This is my child, he said. I wash a dead man's brains out of his hair. That is my job." I believe that what the quote was trying to say is how the man has a job of not just protecting the child from the world but also trying to keep that spark of innocence and hope lit in his child.