

# Unit 5 - Post-Apocalypse and the Human Reaction

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**  
Course(s): **Lost Literature**  
Time Period: **January**  
Length: **8 blocks**  
Status: **Published**

## Enduring Understandings

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- When one has nothing left to lose but a loved one, he or she is willing to go to absolute extremes to maintain a civilized relationship - even if it means letting the savage self become exposed to those who threaten such peace.
- Resourcefulness comes in many forms and one can truly capitalize on this by careful use of personal effects, surroundings, and interactions with others.
- One's faith is tested on a daily basis and personal interactions / philosophical discussions can either strengthen or weaken one's spirituality.
- Dreams and nightmares are born in the wake of past experiences yet can also be the teller of future occurrences.
- The face of nature has been altered by mankind and how we choose to deal with our own repercussions is solely up to us.

## Essential Questions

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- How accurate are dreams/nightmares in foretelling future events?
- What situations might cause one to take another's life in order to save someone else, and can such a situation be truly justified or is there a better cause of action?
- In what ways do human beings revert to a primitive/savage state when there is a lack of law enforcement and rules?
- What are key survival strategies when seeking food, clothing, shelter, and warmth?
- Is it better to put your personal beliefs aside for the general good or is the inverse the true way to go?
- How has mankind impacted nature thus far and at what point will we be unable to turn back from the destruction?

## Content

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*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy

The Road film directed by John Hillcoat - and soundtrack for background while reading via Nick Cave and Warren Ellis

*After Armageddon* - a History Channel Documentary

*The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Extreme Edition* by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht

*The Zombie Survival Guide* by Max Brooks

## **Skills**

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- Understand the motivations behind character interactions in a variety of situations from dialogue, to desertion, to violence.
- Compare and contrast the novel version of *The Road* to the film (specifically focus on how all the major interactions are treated and McCarthy's unusual use of prose).
- Research and evaluate the use of different survival skills and determine what supplies would best suit a post-apocalyptic scenario.
- Identify with both a protagonist and antagonist during a major moment of conflict and be able to justify the actions of both parties.
- Explore and contrast the different mindsets of the man and the boy and identify how they shift throughout the course of the novel.

## **Resources**

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**Vocabulary** - The following terms in addition to many others: marauders, feral, tableau, bedlam, mendicant, intestate, apocalyptic, desiccated, provisions, sepulchre, moorland, skirmishes.