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

- 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

- 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

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

- 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

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