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**WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING?
“DURABILITY AND TRANSIENCE” IN THE ROAD BY CORMAC
MCCARTHY**

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Abstract: *The question “What is the meaning of life?” although one of the oldest questions in Philosophy is also one of the most difficult. One of the main reasons is that such a question can be interpreted in so many different ways; it can refer to a plan for the whole universe, or to people having a purpose, or to the significance or value of life. There are many frameworks for tackling a question like this: the theistic and the atheistic framework, the linguistic approach or the discussion of the meaningfulness of the question itself. In this paper my main concern is with an apparent futility which such a question can have outside a cultural, religious or social framework. I will try to show that Cormac McCarthy’s novel The Road as an outstanding example of a story taking place in a vacuum of cultural, social and temporal references, only appears to preclude any attempt to answer a question about the meaning of life (What can there be of any significance when all the outside world as you know it is gone? What makes life worth living in a post-apocalyptic existence?). I would argue that the reader’s answer to the novel, “the other makes life worth living” is the result of a close investigation of the tension between the protagonist’s life (its durability and determination in spite of a huge psychological trauma) geared towards his son, and the emptiness of the outside world (the transient dying world).*