The Road

The Setting

* A world covered in ash – the man describes ‘the soft ash blowing in loose swirls’ as he looked ‘for anything of colour’ in the countryside. (p.2-3)
* The first hint that we get that suggests this novel is set in a post-apocalyptic world is the fact that the Man and the Boy sleep in the woods during ‘nights dark beyond darkness’
* The country to the south seemed ‘barren, silent, godless’ again we get a sense of this dull, gloomy, dim atmosphere.
* A calendar has not been kept for years – suggesting that whatever has happened has been going on for some time. [Hopelessness of the situation] This also shows how the everyday structures of society have all but disappeared – they seem irrelevant in this dystopian world. Just like the characters names (or lack of) it suggests that what we value in society now are no longer needed in this world. The earth has been stripped bare so too has humanity, only basic elements exist or are important.