

**Reading the Gothic Novel**  
**for AP Literature and Composition**  
**Summer Reading**

“Ah, the children of the night!  
They make such music.” — Dracula

In addition to the Maine East Summer Reading book for seniors, you will actively read one of the following novels and write essays, following the directions below.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

or

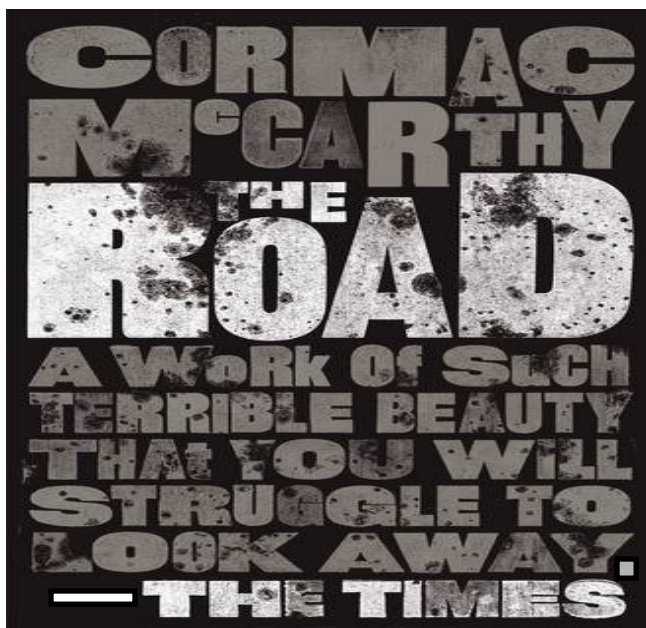
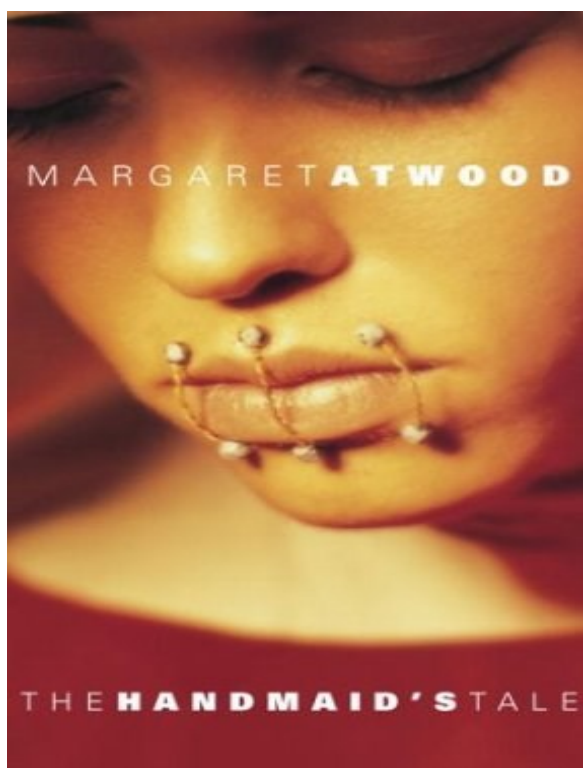
***The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde**

Or

***The Road* by Cormac McCarthy**



*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde



## **GOTH FEST 2016**

### **YOUR TASK, IF YOU DARE!**

1. Look up the term Gothic. What does it mean in history? Architecture? Literature? Organize these ideas in a typed essay defining “gothic.”
2. Get a working definition for “Gothic mood” and find a passage in your novel that is the *ultimate* example. Actively read it, but not after sundown!
3. Write a one-page essay that defines “Gothic mood” and argues that your passage is the ultimate example. Be sure to quote examples from the passage you chose, i.e., eye of newt, tongue of frog, etc.
4. Copy the actively read passage and hand it in with both essays at midnight, August 1st on the top floor of the tower...that little door down the hall...don't mind the creaking door, and those sounds...just the wind.
5. If you wimp out on #4, hand it in the first Friday of school: 8/15/2016.
6. Your work will be submitted to Turnitin.com during the first week of class. It **MUST** be typed.

#### **TO ACTIVELY READ THE PASSAGE, DO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Mark vocabulary and define words in margins.
- Highlight and comment on elements of “Gothic.”
- Mark literary/poetic devices (i.e. metaphor/simile, symbols, imagery, etc.)