

In the novel, *The Road*, by Cormack McCarthy, several characters experience hardship in their lives. Some of these hardships are internal, and some are external.

Specifically, the character of Jack experiences the internal conflict of never achieving financial prosperity. First, Jack cannot reach his monetary goals because he has a chronic drinking problem.

Second, although Jack is quite set on wanting lots of money, he never works hard for it. Third, Jack has an unrealistically high expectation for his desired standard of living.

Throughout the novel, it is apparent that Jack drinks daily and therefore never

has money saved. Every day after work, the protagonist Jack stops at the local convenient store to buy a bottle of rum. Because of this recurrent habit, he spends more than half of his weekly income on alcohol. He often converses with the store clerk before buying the rum: “Hey Jack, back for your usual 30\$ Sailor Jerry” (p.134)? This quote demonstrates that Jack wastes a lot of money on alcohol, thus preventing him from accumulating any wealth. This repeated event in the novel is proof that Jack is in denial about why he cannot become rich as he never realizes that cutting on his liquor spending might help in his goal of becoming prosperous.

Throughout the novel, Jack is very lazy and constantly shows up late for his job. Due to his heavy nightly drinking, Jack rarely wakes up on time for his 8am job and is very slow to get ready in the morning, and thus shows up around noon regularly. At one point in the book, Jack's supervisor comments on his tardiness: "Jack, I see you're early yet again. It's only 11:30am" (p.209)! This quote indicates that the protagonist is constantly late and shows little interest in wanting to be on time at his job.

Although Jack wishes to be rich and never seems to achieve that goal, he clearly does not act in a way that is conducive to becoming prosperous.

In the novel, Jack expresses multiple times that he wishes to own a mansion, even though his current salary does not allow him to afford one. On most of his trips to work, Jack passes an affluent area and comments to himself on how great it would be to own one of the mansions he sees. He says to himself confidently: “I will have one of those one day, mark my words” (p.300)!! This quote shows that although Jack aspires to great things, such as wealth, his current actions do not match his ideal lifestyle. Jack’s ideal life clearly does not match his daily decisions and behavior. In other words, he acts in a way that is contradictory to what he says he wants.

In the novel, Jack's character faces the internal conflict of the contradictory desire of wealth and actions that are not favourable to this end. This has been proven by showing that Jack's alcohol abuse problem causes financial hardship for him. It is also portrayed through his lazy character. Finally, it is visible through the lack of being in touch with reality when it comes to his budget.

There are other events that occur in the novel that could show how Jack's internal conflict manifests itself, yet the aforementioned arguments are sufficient to show that he is in fact never able to achieve financial prosperity.