

ON THE ROAD JACK KEROUAC ESSAY QUESTIONS

On the Road study guide contains a biography of Jack Kerouac, literature essays, quiz questions, major themes, characters, and a full summary.

Kerouac's characters speak harshly to those who find happiness in consumerism and the conventional life of family and job. One could also question whether Sal was truly being an individual through much of the book, since his goal, as he stated it, was to follow Dean and Carlo around to be a part of the fun they were having. What explains the dedication these characters have for this sophisticated African-American urban art form? The second book had an even more profound cultural effect when it was published. This is the story of America. How has the meaning of *On the Road* changed for you since your first encounter with it? During the novel, Sal feels many different emotions concerning this reality. Kerouac was thirty-five years old when *On the Road* was published in 1957. For Dean, finding "it" means living in a pure state. Either way, New York depresses him. *On the Road* may even become one of them. Finally, Kerouac's *On the Road* is still a campus favorite, and continues to draw scholarly criticism. Answer: Kerouac's notion of time seems to be that of an entity that is constantly moving and constantly taking others with it. In its depictions of drug use, loose sexual morality, and lack of regard for authority, it helped to plant the ideas of revolution that fueled much of the social changes of the time. Nevertheless, treating women who are not going to become family seems to be a different matter, and here the conflict is about basic respect and equality versus individual aggrandizement. There are several symbols and allusions when it comes to Dean as well. The novel is actually a thinly veiled account of Kerouac's own life in the late 1940s, when he fell under the spell of a charismatic drifter named Neal Cassady represented by Moriarty in the novel. In 1951, he was arrested as a material witness, having failed to report a homicide committed by Lucien Carr, one of his friends at Columbia. Why not? His first journey takes him everywhere from drinking on the back of a truck to picking cotton in California. The nightmarish visions of William Burroughs continue to influence post-Modern writers. *On the Road* is the story of two young men, Sal Paradise and Dean Moriarty, who travel frantically back and forth across the American continent seeking thrills.