

Readers Corner

Discussion questions for July 30, 2024

On The Road by Jack Kerouac

Intro: Is there a novel from your youth that you feel had a profound effect on your life?

1. What is heaven for Dean Moriarty and Sal Paradise? Do they share the same ideal, believe in the same kind of "heaven"?

2. Some critics have claimed that the world Kerouac depicts in *On the Road* glorifies the deeds of uneducated, criminal young men leading irresponsible lives, committing sacrilegious acts. Do you find the behavior of Dean Moriarty and Sal Paradise repugnant and totally inappropriate? Do you think Kerouac is approving or critical of his characters' behavior?

3. Why do you think *On the Road*, after more than forty years since its original publication, still maintains a magnetic hold on American youth culture?