Things to look for in this reading: ppgs. 90-157

1. How does Bell feel about being a sheriff?
2. Why does he consider himself lucky?
3. What does he imply when he says about Moss, “You think this boy has any notion of the bitches that are hunting him?”
4. Pay attention to Bell’s movements- “Bell shook his head, He didn’t look up.” That one line, in the context of the plot, implies many things.
5. Pay attention to the contrast in how Bell behaves and how the journalist and DEA agent behave in addition to what they say….this characterizes the setting.
6. How is Chigurh’s reaction to the bird on the fence different to Bell’s reaction to the hawk earlier in the novel?
7. Notice the repeated references to sound or lack of sound.
8. How does Moss retrieve the $?
9. What elements of plot does McCarthy imply rather than state directly? Ex: the implication there was a tracking device in the bag of money, the implication that Chigurh did not hurt (kill) the woman at the trailer park when she wouldn’t tell him where Llewlyen was…the sound of the toilet, latch on the door…..When the clerk at the hotel says, “Can I help you?” and it goes right to the next scene.
10. Consider the specific references to boots and gun types.
11. Who were the guys Chigurh encountered in Moss’ first hotel room?
12. What is Bell and Torbert’s reaction to the way Bill Wyrick was killed?
13. Notice McCarthy’s pattern of writing about Moss, “…thinking things over.”
14. What is some of the doublespeak in Moss’ observation, “There is no goddamn way,” (107)
15. Moss realizes, “…he would probably never be safe again in his life and he wondered if that was something that you got used to. And if you did?” What does this mean? Consider the context.
16. Read closely from the middle of 109 to end of 113- the encounter between Moss and Chigurh.
17. How is the gunfight reminiscent of a Western? How does it vary?
18. What does Moss do with the $ once he crosses the border?
19. Consider the focus on eyes and looking at someone or at one’s reflection/a face looking back.
20. Read Bell’s monologue closely, especially the first paragraph about truth. How does the focus and tone change in this monologue?
21. Pay attention to the conversation between Bell and Carla Jean. This conversation characterizes both she and Moss as well as Bell.
22. How does Bell know it was Chigurh at the Eagle hotel?
23. Notice the characterization of Bell’s wife and their marriage.
24. Who is Wells? How does he know Chigurh?
25. Do you see any similarities between Chigurh, Wells and Moss?
26. What happened to the old woman in the Aztec Theatre? What does Wells notice on the wall behind the woman?
27. What does Wells tell Moss about Chigurh?
28. What is the nature of the conversation between Wells and Moss? Why does Moss think he can take on Chigurh?