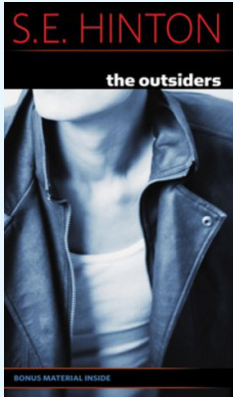


The Outsiders



AUTHOR S.E. Hinton
PAGES 180
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LA BOOKSHELF GS434
VOICETEXT Yes
LEXILE LEVEL 750L
GRADE EQUIVALENT 4–5

OVERVIEW

Ponyboy can count on his brothers and his friends, but not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids who get away with everything, including beating up greasers like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far.

Written forty-five years ago, S. E. Hinton’s classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was written.

SUGGESTED GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

- Venn diagram
Compare and contrast the two rival gangs of the novel: Greasers and Socs
- Compare book to movie
- Character comparisons
Choose a character from the novel and compare them to yourself

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Susan Eloise Hinton wrote her first novel, *The Outsiders*, as a freshman at the University of Tulsa, in 1967, when she was just 17 years old. She wrote under the gender-neutral guise of her initials, S.E. out of a concern that male readers would not read a book narrated by a boy but written by a woman.

With the success of *The Outsiders*, the moniker (S.E. Hinton) suddenly became a household name. Today, with more than eight million copies in print, the book is the best-selling YA novel in history, and one of the most hauntingly real looks into the minds of teenagers.

Hinton has written several books in her 30-year career, all runaway successes. She currently lives in Tulsa, the town in which she was raised, with her husband and son.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

The novel takes place in 1965. What were the important events that happened in the United States at that time?

- U.S. troops begin arriving in Vietnam.
- Malcolm X shot to death in Harlem, NY
- Martin Luther King Jr. was a prominent voice for civil rights

Gangs in the 1960’s. How were gangs back then? How are gangs now?

VOCABULARY

Unfathomable (*adj*) – not able to be understood or grasped

EXAMPLE: Although unfathomable, she loved him anyway.

Irresistible (*adj*) – unable to be resisted, enticing or tempting

EXAMPLE: John found her personality irresistible.

Hoodlum (*noun*) – a thug or gangster, usually young in age

EXAMPLE: Because of his difficult upbringing, Jimmy believed his only path in life was to become a hoodlum.

Absent-minded (*adj*) – to be lost in thought or unaware of his or her surroundings; leading to not knowing what he or she is doing, what is happening, etc.

EXAMPLE: She was so absent-minded that morning, that she ended up burning breakfast.

Juvenile delinquent (*noun*) – a young person who does not follow rules, commits violent or socially unacceptable actions, and cannot be controlled by authority

EXAMPLE: The judge determined his acts of defiance made him a juvenile delinquent.

Clobber (*verb*) – to strike repeatedly, usually violently

EXAMPLE: The injuries on his face were an indication he had been clobbered.

Wolfish (*adj*) – fierce or predatory, having the characteristics of a wolf

EXAMPLE: Although only a poodle, Fluffy displayed wolfish qualities when a stranger walked by.

The Outsiders

Wistful (*adj*) – pensive or thoughtful, usually accompanied with sadness or longing

EXAMPLE: Looking back at his past, he felt wistful, and wished he had done things differently.

Bewildered (*adj*) – uncertain, confused, baffled

EXAMPLE: After she said she would leave and never return, he felt bewildered.

Gallant (*adj*) – to be noble, polite, and even elegant

EXAMPLE: The crowd knew by his demeanor and dress that the new mayor was gallant.

LITERARY DEVICES

Describe all below in the context of the story.

Conflict

An issue that is introduced in the rising action, is faced during the climax, and is usually resolved during the falling action.

EXAMPLE: Greasers vs. Socs, Ponyboy vs. Darry

Setting

The time and place in which a story occurs: 1965 in Oklahoma

Plot

The sequence of events in a narrative

Protagonist

The main character of story, novel or a play

Symbolism

A word, action, event, or thing that stands for something else.

- Discuss the symbolism of *Gone with the Wind* in the story.
- What is the symbolism of cars in the story?
How is it different for the Greasers and the Socs?
- What does the hairstyle of the Greasers symbolize?

SUPPORTING MEDIA (graphic novels, movies, video clips)

- Film: *The Outsiders* (1983)
Director: Francis Ford Coppola
- Novel excerpts: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell
Learning Ally bookshelf JB913
- Teacher Tube video: The 1960's
Teachertube.com/video/the-1960s-115113

COMMON CORE BIG IDEAS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Standard: RL.4.2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

RL.11-12.2: Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.

WRITING PROMPTS

- Compare and contrast the Greasers and the Socs. Explain how their differences create a rivalry. Also explain how their similarities could help bring them together.
- Choose one of the symbols in the novel, and describe their significance to the story. **EXAMPLE:** sunrise and sunsets, male hairstyles, cars, the use of literature in the story.
- Explain Ponyboy's relationship with his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. How are they different?

WAYS TO HELP DIVERSE LEARNERS

- Preview the book/big ideas to build background knowledge
- Watch the movie alongside the book, especially during important passages
- Teacher verbally reads the book or plays audiobook to class while students follow along
- Students with print disabilities can read via the audio version
- Allow students to use a scribe or assistive technology for writing prompt response
- Allow students to give an oral report for the writing prompts

RESOURCES

Common Core Standards for Literacy 5th grade

Common Core Standards Resource Page

TeacherTube.com

Scholastic.com