

Seventh Grade  
Summer Reading Assignment  
*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

When S.E. Hinton started writing *The Outsiders* in high school, she never could have imagined the impact that this book would have on so many readers around the world. Often credited as starting the Young Adult genre, this book humanizes the thought of someone born “on the wrong side of the track” and whether we can change the circumstances of our birth. Enjoy this timeless classic and remember to stay golden.

**Comprehension Questions**

**Chapters 1-3**

1. What makes Ponyboy different from the rest of his gang?
2. Describe Johnny as a character.
3. According to Cherry Valance, what is the biggest difference between a Soc and a Greaser? In your opinion, which side is best when it comes to their handling of emotions?

**Chapters 4-6**

1. Did Johnny do the right thing at the fountain?
2. Is Dallas a good role model? Why or why not?
3. What does Ponyboy realize about his brother Darry at the end of this section?

**Chapters 7-9**

1. What has happened to Johnny?
2. What reasoning does Randy give for why fighting won't solve any problems? Is he right?
3. According to Two-Bit, who could have been a Soc? What is stopping this character from being a Soc?

**Chapters 10-12**

1. What did Johnny leave for Ponyboy?
2. Who does Ponyboy find in his brother's yearbook? What does he think about this person now?
3. What does “Nothing Gold Can Stay” mean to you?

**Character Questions-**We will often look at the characters and their actions throughout this school year to determine if these are good and beautiful characters.

1. In what specific ways does one of the main characters demonstrate **courage** in the midst of conflict?
2. How does a main character in the book demonstrate **respect** and **compassion** toward those who are different from himself/herself?
3. In a good book, a character grows and changes, just as we do in real life. Identify the points of conflict in this book during which the character changes and what the change looks like.
4. While reading a great book, we grow and change as we read. How did this book change the way you think? What truth did you learn from this book that will help you to live your life well?

### **Creative Assignment-Book Cover and Review**

Once you have finished reading *The Outsiders*, use your familiarity with the story to design your own version of the book! The cover of a book encourages others to read it too, with art and a short description to let the readers know what to expect.

**Front cover:** Using any art technique you like, design a cover for *The Outsiders*. Be sure the cover is related to the content of the book, and include the title and author somewhere in your design. (Feel free to complete this part of the assignment on a separate page.)

**Back Page:** Write a review for the book that is at least two paragraphs in length. Be sure to include what you liked about the book and even some of what you disliked about the book. Talk about the characters, the plot, the language, etc. Would you recommend this book to anyone? A paragraph is at least five sentences.