

# A Teaching Unit For The Outsiders

S.E. Hinton



## ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

A Teaching Unit  
For  
*The Outsiders*  
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## *The Outsiders* Table of Contents

Chapter	Focus	<u>Partial</u> List of Common Core Standards Met in Grades 7 & 8
1	Allusion, Chapter Questions, Character Sketch	CC8L3 – Students analyze how particular lines or incidents in a story reveal aspects of a character.
2	Flashback, Conflict	Students look at how flashback reveals aspects of the character Johnny. (CCSS8L3, CC7L3) They also analyze how conflict shapes the plot and character.
3	Greasers Vs. Socs Symbolism	The differences in the Socs and the Greasers as well as the likenesses is related to one of the main themes in this novel. By looking at these differences, students are analyzing the development of the theme. (CCSS RL72, RL82) When determining symbolism in a work of literature, students are drawing inferences from the text. (CCSS RL61, RL71, RL81)
4	Respond	Students must write their thoughts, opinions, and predictions to certain passages. With this exercise, students are drawing evidence from a literary text to support analysis and reflection. (CCSSW6.9,W7.9,W8.9)
5	Setting, Poem analysis for “Nothing Gold Can Stay” Writing Opportunity	In the first exercise, students must analyze how the setting shapes the characters and plot.(CCSSRL73) In the second exercise, students analyze each line of the poem and determine the meaning and theme. (CCSSRL7.4, 8.4)
6	Foreshadowing, Epiphany Writing Opportunity	In the first exercise, students determine how foreshadowing helps shape the plot.(CCSSRL7.3, 8.3) In the second exercise, students study changes in a character, which ultimately leads to the theme. (CCSSRL6.2, 7.2, 8.2)

Test	Test on Chapters 1-6	
7	Readers' Theater Theme	Students analyze theme and how it relates to different characters. (CCSSRL6.2, 7.2, 8.2)
8	Discussion Questions	Students must determine how Johnny's life is like the poem. Here they are drawing on inferences from the text. (CCSSRL6.1, 7.1, 8.1)
9	Top Ten List	Students must think about the action in the text to create their own list. (CCSSW6.4, 7.4, 8.4)
10	Tableau Epitaph	Students must analyze the characters and setting to create a tableau. This extended thinking activity would be considered a level four on Depth of Knowledge (DOK).
11	Silent Passage Analysis	With this activity, students will analyze how particular lines propel the action, reveal character, and provoke decisions. (CCSS7.3, 8.3)
12	Meaning of Title Theme Memorable Quotes	The title is related to the theme of the novel. (CCSSRL6.2, 7.2, 8.2)
Test	Final Test	

# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 1

**Allusion:** A reference to a well-known person, event, character or work from history or literature.

There is an allusion to Paul Newman on the first page of chapter one. If you do not know who Paul Newman was, use an Internet search engine to find out. Write a few things that you find out about him in the box below.

There is an allusion to Will Rogers as well. Research Will Rogers, and write what you learned about him in the box below.

What piece of literature does the author allude to in this chapter?

### Chapter Questions

1. From what point of view is this story told?
2. What happened to Ponyboy's parents?
3. What do we know about Ponyboy so far?

**A character sketch** is a writer’s way to describe characters in a way that makes them believable and realistic. It is a way to put characters on paper with words. In a character sketch, a person’s physical characteristics are described and also other “telling” details that capture who the person really is. It may include his/her mannerisms, little things that they do, or what they believe. In this chapter, we are introduced to Ponyboy, his brothers, and other members of the “greasers.” In the following chart, you will take a look at each of these characters.

Character	Relation to Ponyboy	Physical description	Other things revealed about this character
Darry			
Sodapop			
Steve Randle			
Two-Bit Mathews			
Dallas Winston - Dally			
Johnny Cade			

Write a short character sketch for yourself or make up your own character. Just like the ones included in this chapter, give a physical description as well as personality traits or other insights.

# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 2

**A flashback** occurs when a story is interrupted for a character to remember something that has happened in the past.

**External Conflict** – a character struggles with an outside force. It is evident early on in this book that *The Outsiders* is driven by a social class conflict.

**GREASERS**  
POOR

**VS.**

**SOCS**  
RICH

REBELIOUS

FACELESS, CRUEL

Because of the point of view of the story, we see the Socs as Ponyboy does. So far, the Socs are faceless and cruel. That is until we meet Cherry Valance. She seems sympathetic and surprises Ponyboy with some of the things that she says. What does Ponyboy, along with the reader, learn from Cherry?

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**In the following box, summarize the flashback involving Johnny.**

Authors use flashbacks so that readers can learn about characters or about past events. What do we learn from this flashback?

---

What does Johnny's reaction to the fight illustrate?

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# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 3

At the beginning of this chapter, we see Pony boy beginning to think that there are some similarities between the Socs and the Greasers. He says, "...there was a basic sameness."(page 35)

Cherry, seems to disagree, however and sums things up by saying the following about the Socs:

- Socs are more sophisticated to the point of not feeling anything.
- Nothing is real for the Socs.
- They don't mean half of what they say.
- They are in a rat race – always going and going and searching for more.

Studying this list, what are some words that could describe the Socs? Write the words in the box below.

"That's why we're separated," I said. "It's not money, it's feeling – you don't feel anything and we feel too violently."

This is how Ponyboy sums up the differences between the Greasers and the Socs. Respond to this comment. What do you think he means?

Find another passage in this chapter that either suggests that the Greasers are different from the Socs or that shows that they are not as different as they think. Write the passage and page number in the box below.

A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. Our nation’s flag is a symbol for freedom. In literature, symbolism combines the literal and the abstract. Some symbols are generic, such as winter represents death. Other symbols are specific to an individual work of literature. In the Outsiders, the reader can consider several things symbolic. Let’s take a look at some of the things that can be symbolic in chapter three. Provide an explanation for each.

Things in book that could be symbols	Symbolism	Explanation
Mickey Mouse	innocence, loss – having what is precious taken away	
hair	identity, pride	
switchblade	strength, power	
Blue Mustang	upper-class, economic divide	
rings on Soc’s hand	wealth	
the country	freedom, escape from social “rules”	

*The Outsiders*  
Chapter 4

Respond

This chapter is deep. Things take a serious turn for Johnny and Ponyboy. Respond to each of the following passages taken from chapter four. Write your thoughts, opinions, and/or predictions.

About Dally – *“The fight for self-preservation had hardened him beyond caring.”* (page 54)

*Johnny, who wouldn't hurt a living thing on purpose, had taken a human life.*(56)

*So we'd have to be hermits for the rest of our lives, and never see anyone but Dally.* (59)

# The Outsiders

## Chapter 5

Setting is a combination of the time of day, the place where the scene occurs, the geographic location, and the period of history.

**Study the following chart to understand what setting may include.**

Place	Time	Environment
The physical location In the country, state, or city? Mountains? Lake? Forest? Beach? Under a bridge?	Calendar and clock times- day, month, year? Season? Past, present, future?	What are the details in the surroundings? What else is going on around the characters? Is it crowded? Isolated? Is the wind blowing? What is the weather like?

Look back in chapter five at the setting. Johnny and Ponyboy are now at a church, but there is more to the setting than that. In the box below, list details that relate to the setting provided throughout the chapter. Then, tell whether the details relate to the place, the time, or the environment. One has been done for you.

Detail	Place? Time? Environment?
...dry leaves outside (page 61)	Environment, time - fall

Look back toward the end of this chapter to the part where Ponyboy recites the poem to Johnny. Reread the passage before the poem that describes the sun rise.

After listening to the poem, Johnny says, *“I never noticed colors and clouds and stuff until you kept reminding me about them. It seems like they were never there before.”*

At this point in the book, how is the setting affecting the characters?

*“Nature’s first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf’s a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.”*

Ponyboy says that he was trying to find the meaning in the poem, but it “eluded” him. Let’s find the meaning ourselves.

**To understand a poem, you must take it line by line and figure it out. Use these guided questions to help you figure out the meaning.**

Line 1 – What could “nature’s first green” be?

Why is this “first green” gold?

Line 2 – Who is the “her” in this line?

What is a hue?

Why could this first hue be hard to hold?

Line 3 – What does it mean by “early” leaf?

Line 4 – So this line means it is only a flower for how long?

Line 5 - What does the word subsides mean?

So what is this line saying?

Line 6 – This line has an allusion to the Garden of Eden in the Bible. How did Eden sink to grief?

Line 7 - What does dawn turn into?

Line 8 – Now, why can nothing gold stay?



# The Outsiders

## Chapter 6

*No, it wasn't Cherry the Soc who was helping us, it was Cherry the dreamer who watched sunsets and couldn't stand fights.*

What is the significance of this passage?

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**Foreshadowing** is a literary device that provides a clue or a hint of what is to come. Sometimes, good foreshadowing is overlooked until something takes place.

Read the passage pulled from chapter three.

*I saw Johnny's cigarette glowing in the dark and wondered vaguely what it was like inside a burning ember...*

Again in this chapter we see the ember mentioned as Ponyboy thinks back to this thought about a burning ember.

*The cinders and embers began falling on us, stinging and smarting like ants. Suddenly, in the red glow, and the haze, I remembered wondering what it was like in a burning ember, and I thought: Now I know, it's a red hell. Why aren't I scared? (page 82)*

Besides foreshadowing, what else could be the importance of the ember?

When Jerry, the man who rides in the ambulance with Ponyboy, doesn't know what a greaser is, this shows \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. that Jerry is too old to know anything
- b. that to the outside world, the greaser identity is meaningless
- c. that the ambulance was too loud for Jerry to hear
- d. that Jerry is a Soc

An epiphany is a term in literary criticism for a sudden realization--a flash of recognition in which someone or something is seen in a new light. What is Ponyboy's epiphany in this chapter? How does the climax in plot (the church fire) cause this epiphany?

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# *The Outsiders*

## Writing Opportunity

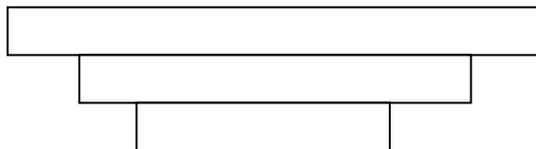
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In this chapter, Johnny and Ponyboy make daring rescues. They are even called heroes. Write a news report of the event. Be sure to include quotes (ones you make up, not quotes from the book) from characters. For example, in your article, you may say, a local witness who rode to the hospital in the ambulance with Ponyboy said, “Those boys were real heroes. I thought they may have been angels in disguise.”

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?
- It is arranged in an “inverted pyramid” style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are near the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. Who is it about?
2. What happened?
3. When did it happen?
4. Where did it happen?
5. Why did it happen?
6. How did it happen?

Remember, not everyone knows what the reader knows. Write only what would appear in the Newspaper. Also, keep it true to the time period. You would not need to say that the report was all over social media because there was no such thing as social media or even the Internet during the time this story takes place.

## ***The Outsiders***

### **Newspaper Article Rubric**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Article based on the rescue of children from church fire	10	
Article gives facts and not opinions	15	
Article tells: Who _____ What _____ When _____ Why _____ Where _____	50	
Organized, article "makes sense"	15	
Neat, well written with few (if any) spelling or grammatical errors	10	
Bonus: pictures, made to look like a "real" newspaper article, dateline/byline used correctly	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>110</b>	

*The Outsiders*  
Test Chapters 1-6

1. What point of view is used in this book?
  - a. first person – Ponyboy’s point of view
  - b. first person – Dally’s point of view
  - c. third person limited
  - d. third person omniscient
  
2. What happened to Ponyboy’s parents?
  - a. They abandoned Ponyboy and his brothers when they were young.
  - b. They were killed in an automobile wreck.
  - c. They were arrested and taken to prison.
  - d. They left to travel the world.
  
3. The Greasers versus the Socs is a rivalry between \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. country boys and city boys
  - b. different races
  - c. social classes
  - d. older and younger people
  
4. Which one of the Greasers is considered the gang’s pet – the favorite?
  - a. Dally
  - b. Soda Pop
  - c. Two Bit
  - d. Johnny
  
5. Which of the following is considered a big part of the Greaser identity?
  - a. their knives
  - b. their hair
  - c. their slang
  - d. their houses

6. Johnny is portrayed as especially \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. vulnerable
  - b. skinny
  - c. brave
  - d. angry
7. Which of the brothers acts as a mediator or one who tries to keep the peace?
- a. Ponyboy
  - b. Darry
  - c. SodaPop
8. How does Ponyboy think of Darry?
- a. He feels that Darry doesn't love him.
  - b. He feels like he is only a problem for Darry.
  - c. He feels like Darry is too hard on him.
  - d. All of the above
9. Which of the following sets Ponyboy apart from the rest of the Greasers?
- a. his courage and respect for other Greasers
  - b. his hatred of the Socs
  - c. his intelligence and sensitivity
  - d. his willingness to fight
10. What affect does Cherry have on the Plot of the story?
- a. She helps Ponyboy realize that Socs are individuals too with their own problems.
  - b. She causes Ponyboy to resent the Socs even more than the others do.
  - c. She causes Ponyboy to sympathize with all Socs.
  - d. She helps all of the Greasers realize that the Socs are a lot like the Greasers.

11. The sunset mentioned in the first few chapters most likely symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
- light and love
  - the connection that people share
  - the need for friendship
  - the true identity of everyone
12. In chapter three, when Ponyboy says that he thinks that Darry “can’t stand him”, Two Bit replies, “No, Ponyboy, that ain’t right...you got it wrong...” Two-Bit’s reaction indicates \_\_\_\_\_.
- that Ponyboy is exactly right
  - that Ponyboy may not be right
  - that Darry resents having to raise his two brothers
  - that Darry should do a better job talking to Ponyboy
13. Cherry seems to be able to \_\_\_\_\_.
- understand the meaning of the boy’s nicknames
  - see the good in both Greasers and Socs
  - keep the boys from fighting one another
  - drive a blue Mustang fast and recklessly
14. Dally seems to have a \_\_\_\_\_ way of life.
- hard-hearted and criminal
  - peaceful and productive
  - sad and depressed
  - quiet and reserved
15. S.E. Hinton, the author, uses all of the following except\_\_.
- realistic dialogue that matches the time period of the novel
  - flashbacks to allow the reader to learn about the characters’ pasts
  - symbolism to create deeper meaning in the book
  - monologues to allow the reader to know the inner thoughts of the characters

16. Why do Ponyboy and Johnny cut their hair?
- to blend in with the Socs
  - so that the girls will like them
  - to disguise themselves
  - The Socs make them.
17. How does being in the church affect Johnny and Ponyboy?
- It gives them time to reflect on their lives and the lives of others.
  - It gives them time to appreciate nature like the clouds.
  - They are isolated in the church and begin to hate it.
  - All of the above
18. At the end of chapter five, it is mentioned that Dally has a heater. What is a heater?
- a gun
  - a knife
  - a portable machine that puts out warm air
  - a car
19. What book does Ponyboy read to Johnny while they are in the church?
- Huckleberry Finn*
  - Souder*
  - To Kill a Mockingbird*
  - Gone With the Wind*
20. After rescuing the children from the fire and seeing Darry crying in the hospital, Ponyboy realizes \_\_\_\_\_.
- that Darry really does care about him
  - that Darry was the one who rescued him
  - that Darry thinks the fire is all his fault
  - that Darry is afraid that Ponyboy may die

*The Outsiders*  
Chapter 7

Readers' Theater ~ Teacher Instruction Page

An important conversation takes place in this chapter between Ponyboy and Randy. Place students in groups of three. Have one student read Ponyboy's lines, one Randy's, and the other the narrator's part. Begin the readers' theater when Ponyboy gets in Randy's car. You can have students read from the book, or type out the lines. A sample of this is below. You will need to finish typing out the lines if you wish for students to read it from a paper instead of the book.

Sample Readers' Theater Lines:

**Randy:** I read about you in the paper. How come?

**Ponyboy:** I don't know. Maybe I felt like playing hero.

**Randy:** I wouldn't have. I would have let those kids burn to death.

**Ponyboy:** You might not have. You might have done the same thing.

**Narrator:** Randy pulled out a cigarette and pressed in the car lighter.

**Randy:** I don't know. I don't know anything anymore. I would never have believed a greaser could pull something like that.

**Theme:** The story's central message; a life lesson  
Some things to remember about theme are as follows:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember the most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

Read the following passage from the end of chapter seven.

*Socs were just guys after all. Things were rough all over, but it was better that way. That way you could tell the other guy was human too.*

Based on the actions in the novel so far, this passage, and the entire compelling conversation in this chapter between Randy and Ponyboy, what do you think one of the main themes of this novel is?

---

Complete the following chart to show how this theme relates to several of the characters.

<b>Character</b>	<b>How this theme fits this character</b>
Johnny	
Dally	
Randy	
Darry	
Cherry	

*The Outsiders*  
Chapter 8

Go back and find the passage where Johnny is talking about dying. It begins, *“I don’t want to die now. It ain’t long enough. Sixteen years ain’t long enough...”*

Return to chapter five. Reread the poem “Nothing Gold Can Stay”. How does Johnny’s situation relate to this poem? Write your answer in the box below. Try writing your own poem about Johnny and the situation he is in now.

Find a passage that is used as foreshadowing in this chapter. Write it on the line below. Foreshadowing creates suspense. After finding the foreshadowing, what do you predict will happen?

Foreshadowing in chapter eight:

---

My prediction

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Reread the last page of chapter eight. Again the sunset is mentioned. Why do you think the author writes about the sunset again? How do these lines about the sunset reveal the changes in Ponyboy's thoughts about the Socs and the Greasers?



In the box below, draw a picture that depicts the true meaning of the sunset on the West Side and the East Side. You may use words in your picture as well. Make sure you show the symbolic meaning, and not just the literal meaning. Be creative as you portray this important aspect of this novel.



# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 9

Often it is human nature for someone to do something just because a group is doing it, regardless of the consequences. It is obvious in this chapter that Ponyboy has an inward struggle about the “rumble”. He goes along with it, however, because the rest of the greasers do.

Create a top ten list stating reasons people should **not** follow the crowd. Think about some of the “truths” and realizations that Ponyboy has had over the course of this novel. You may use some of these in your list.

### Top 10 Reasons NOT to Follow the Crowd

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Masks – We all wear them; maybe not real masks, but all of us at time hide who we really are. During the “rumble”, what does Ponyboy realize about the “masks” that the Greasers and the Socs wear?

# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 10

A **tableau** is a living picture that captures a moment. You will create a group tableau. This means that you will create a frozen scene from chapter ten. You will stand in a line in front of the class and one by one “come to life”, say a line from the chapter while showing emotion and/or actions that fit that line, and then freeze again. Then, the person beside you will “come to life”, say his/her line and then freeze again until the entire group is done.

### **Follow the directions below to prepare for your dramatic presentation:**

1. Choose some dialogue, a moment, or situation from chapter ten for your group to portray. Make sure you choose a significant passage or line. If you wish, each person in the group may choose his/her own line(s), which do not have to be in the same passage. For example, person one in the group may choose the line, on page 134, *Dally raised the gun, and I thought: You blasted fool*. The second person in the group may choose the line, on page 135, *The world was spinning around me, and blobs of faces and visions of things past were dancing in the red mist that covered the lot..* While these thoughts of Ponyboy's are not on the same page, they are still related. They help to describe the conflict and the struggle over the insensible deaths.
2. Once each person in the group has chosen a line or two or three, decide how each person will “come to life” and portray this line. You will memorize the line and say it out loud, but as you do so, you should include facial expressions, and movements or gestures when possible. For example, for the line, *Dally raised the gun, and I thought: You blasted fool*, the speaker would have the look of fear at the beginning and then use their hand to make a gun and raise it at him/herself.
3. Once everyone in the group has decided on a line, facial expressions, and motions to accompany that line, practice your tableau. Everyone in the group should stand frozen. Put your heads down so you are not tempted to smile or laugh. The first person in line will begin by lifting his/her head, saying and acting out his/her line. Once this line has been brought to life, that person will freeze right where he/she is, and the next person will “come to life.”
4. Now, before you perform your tableau for the class, you must first write something for your teacher. 😊 Write a paragraph explaining the significance of your chosen piece to act out. Why did you choose it? What is significant about it? Why is it memorable?

5. Good Luck!

***The Outsiders***  
**Tableau Rubric**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>
Participated effectively with group	20	
Voice was loud enough to be heard by the entire "audience".	20	
Facial expressions and/or gestures were incorporated.	20	
Written analysis was completed with few (if any) errors in conventions.	20	
Written analysis included a thorough explanation of the chosen line.	20	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

## ***The Outsiders***

### **Epitaph**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**An epitaph is a short, rhymed poem that would be written on a tombstone.**

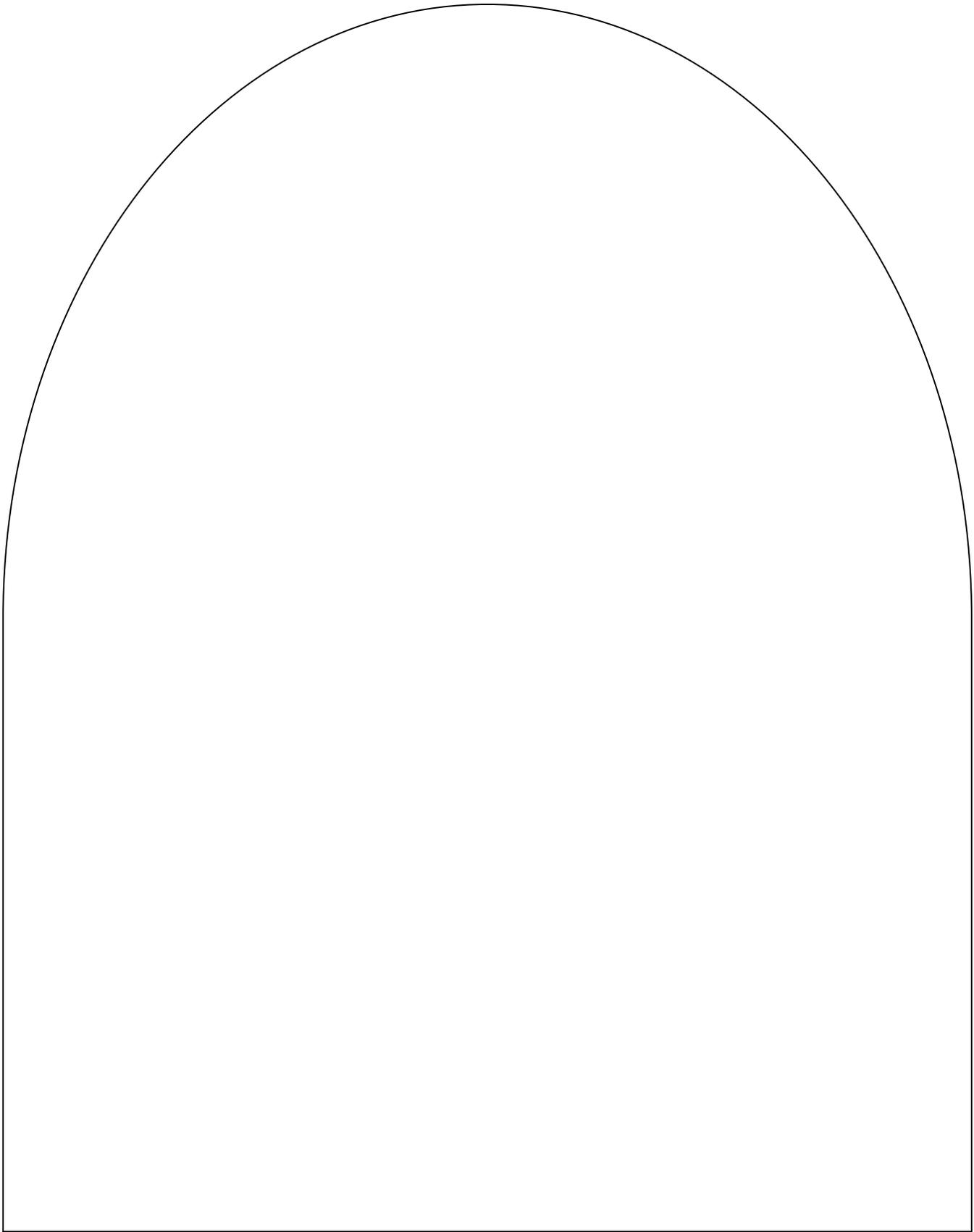
#### Choices

- Write the epitaph for Johnny from his point of view. Have him speak from the “great beyond”. If you do this, think about his outlook on life or his advice to those still living.
- Write the epitaph as one of the Greasers who misses Johnny. Think about what he meant to this surviving friend and put those thoughts into a poem.
- Write the epitaph for Dally from his point of view. Have him speak from the “great beyond”. If you do this, think about his outlook on life or his advice to those still living.
- Write the epitaph as one of the Greasers who misses Dally. Think about what he meant to this surviving friend and put those thoughts into a poem.

#### Write

- Use an *aabb* rhyme scheme. It should not be longer than four lines because it has to be short enough to fit on a tombstone. It can be as short as two lines. The length is not as important as what is written.

Write a draft on notebook paper. Try a couple of them, and choose the best one.



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Chapter 11

**Silent Passage Analysis**

**Directions:** Write each of these passages in the center of a separate sheet of paper or on the center of a sheet of chart paper. Then, have students silently read each passage and make a comment about them individually. The comment may be their interpretation of the passage or what the passage means to them personally. You may find other passages in the book you would like to add to this activity.

*I looked at Bob's picture and I could begin to see the person we had killed. (141)*

*"Johnny is not dead." My voice was shaking. "Johnny is not dead." (143)*

# *The Outsiders*

## Chapter 12

The title of this book is a theme in itself. Explain how *The Outsiders* is related to the theme of “fitting in” and “identity”.

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In your own words, what do you think is the most important theme in this novel?

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage that supports this theme:

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Scan the book to find a memorable quote. Write the quote in the box below. Then, explain why you chose this particular quote.

I chose this quote because

---

*The Outsiders*  
Test

1. Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
  - a. profound and at times angry
  - b. lighthearted and touching
  - c. sarcastic and at times frightening
  - d. suspenseful and humorous
  
2. In the novel, the use of the first person point of view allows the author to \_\_\_\_.
  - a. share only Ponyboy's inner thoughts and feelings
  - b. concentrate on creating unusual characters
  - c. share what many of the characters are thinking and feeling
  - d. describe the story's setting in vivid details
  
3. Which of the following best describes Dally?
  - a. rebellious and independent
  - b. playful and energetic
  - c. quiet and mean
  - d. intelligent yet sneaky
  
4. Ponyboy has several internal conflicts throughout the novel. Which of the following is not a part of an internal conflict for him?
  - a. his relationship with his brothers
  - b. his identity
  - c. gang violence
  - d. his grades in school
  
5. The character Cherry is portrayed as a \_\_\_\_\_ character.
  - a. a jealous
  - b. a sympathetic
  - c. a cruel
  - d. a timid

6. Ponyboy and Johnny go into hiding after \_\_\_\_\_.
- killing a Soc
  - pulling a knife at the drive-in
  - making a bet with the Socs
  - stealing something from the store
7. Which of the following would be considered the “meekest” greaser?
- Ponyboy
  - Dally
  - Darry
  - Johnny
8. Which of the following best describes Johnny’s relationship with his parents?
- solid
  - troubled
  - abusive
  - healthy
9. Which of the following characters had the motto, “Get tough like me and you won’t get hurt”?
- Ponyboy
  - Dally
  - Two-Bit
  - Johnny
10. All of the following are themes or issues in the book except \_\_\_\_\_.
- heroism
  - friendship
  - stereotypes
  - divorce

11. This book is set in \_\_\_\_\_.
- the 1950s and 1960s
  - the 1970s and 1980s
  - the 1980s and 1990s
  - present day
12. In the end, Ponyboy learns that \_\_\_\_\_.
- without money, nothing is possible
  - the Socs aren't that different from the Greasers
  - things are hard all over
  - both b and c
13. How does Johnny change after he is beaten up by the Socs?
- He becomes more angry and aggressive.
  - He becomes more nervous and afraid.
  - He becomes indifferent – not caring about anything.
  - He becomes sympathetic toward the Socs.
14. Why is hair so important to the Greasers?
- It causes the girls to like them.
  - It gives them the power to be physically stronger.
  - It is a matter of pride and identity for them.
  - It makes the Socs jealous.
15. When Ponyboy and Johnny are guilty of murder, and the man at the scene of the fire tells them they must be sent from heaven, this is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a flashback
  - ironic
  - symbolic
  - imagery

16. What happens to Dally?
- He is sentenced to life in prison.
  - He decides to go to college.
  - He moves in with Ponyboy and his brothers.
  - He is shot by a police officer.
17. At the end of the book, which of the following does Ponyboy learn?
- He learns that hair is what makes a person strong.
  - He learns that people are not defined by what group they belong to but by who they are as individuals.
  - He learns that no matter what, the Socs will always be the same.
  - He learns that being tough like Dally is the best way to live.
18. Johnny's vulnerability contrasts with Dally's \_\_\_\_\_.
- kindness
  - selfishness
  - ruggedness
  - shyness
19. The poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" mirrors \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- Ponyboy's
  - Johnny's
  - Cherry's
  - Darry's
20. The first sentences of Ponyboy's essay \_\_\_\_\_.
- are very sad
  - are the same as the first sentences of the novel
  - are the very same words that Johnny spoke before he died
  - are an analysis of the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay"

**Write the following “I Am” poem as one of the characters from *The Outsiders*. This template will guide you in what to write.**

## **I Am**

I am (Choose a character from the novel)

I wonder (something this character would be curious about)

I hear (a sound (real or imaginary) this character would hear)

I see (a sight (real or imaginary) this character would see)

I want (an actual desire that this character would want)

I am (the first line of the poem restated)

I pretend (something this character would actually pretend to do)

I feel (a feeling this character would have about something)

I touch (something concrete or imaginary that this character would touch)

I worry (something that would really bother this character)

I cry (something that would make this character very sad)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

I understand (something this character knows is true)

I say (something this character would believe in)

I dream (something this character would actually dream about)

I try (something this character would really make an effort about)

I hope (something this character would actually hope for)

I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

# After the Novel Ideas

## Tie in Informational Text

Visit the website *Teaching Tolerance* <http://www.tolerance.org/activity/test-yourself-hidden-bias> to read an article on stereotyping and bias. There is even a test to see if you have hidden biases. Hold a discussion on how stereotyping played a role in *The Outsiders* and how it can still play a role in our lives.

## Writing Assignment

Have students compare themselves to one of the characters in the outsiders.

## Multimedia Presentation

Allow students to create a multimedia project in which they choose a song to represent three of the characters. In addition to the song, require them to choose their favorite quote from that character and perhaps a picture from the movie or a picture that represents the character. Make sure students choose songs that would be appropriate for the classroom. In addition to their presentation, have them write a short paragraph about each character and explain why the song that they chose fits that character. Allow students to show their presentations to the class.

## Have a “Talk Show”

In small groups, allow your students to create a mock talk show. Someone from the group will be the host, and the others will be the characters. They may choose any character except Johnny and Dally because of course those two are dead. Tell them that the host could interview them about the rescue from the fire as well as the deaths of Johnny and Dally. Encourage the students to dress and act the part. Once the questions and responses are written, allow them to take turns performing their talk show to the class.

# Answer Keys

## *The Outsiders*

### Chapter 1

**Allusion:** A reference to a well-known person, event, character or work from history or literature.

There is an allusion to Paul Newman on the first page of chapter one. If you do not know who Paul Newman was, use an Internet search engine to find out. Write a few things that you find out about him in the box below.

**Paul Leonard Newman** (January 26, 1925 - September 26, 2008) was an American actor, film director, entrepreneur, humanitarian, professional racing driver, auto racing team owner and auto racing enthusiast. He was well known for his good looks and blue eyes. A caring and supremely generous man, he is the founder of "Newman's Own" a successful line of food products that has earned in excess of \$100 million, every penny of which the philanthropic movie icon has donated to charity.

There is an allusion to Will Rogers as well. Research Will Rogers, and write what you learned about him in the box below.

**Will Rogers** was an Oklahoma Indian, a cowboy, an entertainer, a movie and Broadway star, a writer, a speaker, a comedian, a philosopher and a world figure.

What piece of literature does the author allude to in this chapter? *Great Expectations*

## Chapter Questions

1. From what point of view is this story told? First person - Ponyboy is telling it.
2. What happened to Ponyboy's parents? They were killed in a car wreck.
3. What do we know about Ponyboy so far? He enjoys movies, books, and art which makes him feel different from the other Greasers. He has 2 brothers - Sodapop and Darry. He feels like Darry treats him like a child and that Soda knows everything about him. He's 14 years old. He knows it's not safe to walk alone. He makes good grades.

**A character sketch** is a writer's way to describe characters in a way that makes them believable and realistic. It is a way to put characters on paper with words. In a character sketch, a person's physical characteristics are described and also other "telling" details that capture who the person really is. It may include his/her mannerisms, little things that they do, or what they believe. In this chapter, we are introduced to Ponyboy, his brothers, and other members of the "greasers." In the following chart, you will take a look at each of these characters.

Character	Relation to Ponyboy	Physical description	Other things revealed about this character
Darry	brother	6'2, muscular, dark brown hair, blue eyes looks older	Others are afraid of him.
Sodapop	brother	handsome, slim, dark golden hair, dark brown eyes	never drinks, gets drunk on living, understand everybody, attracts girls, works at a gas station
Steve Randle	in the gang - Soda's best friend	tall, lean, thick greasy hair	seventeen years old, cocky, smart, Soda's best buddy, knows a lot about cars, works at gas station with Soda, doesn't like Ponyboy
Two-Bit Mathews	in the gang	six feet tall, stocky, long rusty-colored sideburns, gray eyes, wide grin	oldest of the gang, wisecracker, called Two Bit because he always had to get his two bits in, famous for shoplifting, real name is Keith, liked fights, blondes, and school
Dallas Winston - Dally	in the gang	elfish face, high cheekbones, a pointed chin, small, sharp animal teeth, ears like a lynx, blonde hair, blue eyes	spent three years on the wild side of NY, was arrested at age of 10, tougher than the rest, colder, meaner, smart
Johnny Cade	in the gang - the gang's "pet"	smaller than the rest, slight build, big black eyes, a dark tanned face, jet-black hair	younger, the gang's "pet", his father beat him and his mother ignored him

Write a short character sketch for yourself or for someone you know. Just like the ones included in this chapter, give a physical description as well as personality traits or other insights.

## *The Outsiders*

### Chapter 2

A **flashback** occurs when a story is interrupted for a character to remember something that has happened in the past.

**External Conflict** - a character struggles with an outside force. It is evident early on in this book that *The Outsiders* is driven by a social class conflict.

**GREASERS**

**VS.**

**SOCS**

POOR

RICH

MAIN CHARACTERS

FACELESS, CRUEL

Because of the point of view of the story, we see the Socs as Ponyboy does. So far, the Socs are faceless and cruel. That is until we meet Cherry Valance. She seems sympathetic and surprises Ponyboy with some of the things that she says. What does Ponyboy, along with the reader, learn from Cherry?

**We learn that Both Socs and the Greasers must deal with difficulty.**

In the following box, summarize the flashback involving Johnny.

**Ponyboy remembers what happened to Johnny four months prior. While walking to get a bottle of pop, Ponyboy and Steve find Johnny's jacket and notice blood on it. They then find Johnny lying face down on the ground. He was beaten badly with his face cut up, bruised and swollen. There was blood all over him, and he was cut bad enough to leave a scar on his face. Johnny tells the boys that there was a whole gang of Socs - a blue mustang full - that jumped on him. Johnny said he had been looking for their football when the Mustang pulled up. Four Socs got out, and one of them had a bunch of rings on his hand. Those rings are what cut Johnny's face up so badly. They threatened Johnny, and made him very scared and nervous. Because of that fight, Johnny carries a knife with him everywhere he goes.**

Authors use flashbacks so that readers can learn about characters or about past events. What do we learn from this flashback? What does Johnny's reaction to the fight illustrate? **He has been emotionally scarred by it and is still shaken by what happened to him.**

## The Outsiders

### Chapter 3

At the beginning of this chapter, we see Pony boy beginning to think that there are some similarities between the Socs and the Greasers. He says, "...there was a basic sameness."(page 35)

Cherry, seems to disagree, however and sums things up by saying the following about the Socs:

- Socs are more sophisticated to the point of not feeling anything.
- Nothing is real for the Socs.
- They don't mean half of what they say.
- They are in a rat race - always going and going and searching for more.

Studying this list, what are some words that could describe the Socs? Write the words in the box below.

Some sample answers: preppy, cold, fake, unsatisfied.

"That's why we're separated," I said. "It's not money, it's feeling - you don't feel anything and we feel too violently."

This is how Ponyboy sums up the differences between the Greasers and the Socs. Respond to this comment. What do you think he means?

Accept reasonable answers.

Find another passage in this chapter that either suggests that the Greasers are different from the Socs or that shows that they are not as different as they think. Write the passage and page number in the box below.

Sample Answer: *It seemed funny to me that the sunset she saw from her patio and the one I saw from the back steps was the same one. Maybe the two different worlds we lived in weren't that different. We saw the same sunset. Page 38*

A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. Our nation's flag is a symbol for freedom. In literature, symbolism combines the literal and the abstract. Some symbols are generic, such as winter represents death. Other symbols are specific to an individual work of literature. In the *Outsiders*, the reader can consider several things symbolic. Let's take a look at some of the things that can be symbolic in chapter three. Provide an explanation for each.

Things in book that could be symbols	Symbolism	Explanation
Mickey Mouse	innocence, loss - having what is precious taken away	This horse connects the boys to their youth - a time of innocence and a time before they lost their parents.
Hair	identity, pride	The Greasers' long hair is a symbol of their gang. It defines who they are. It is also one of the things that they can proudly own without having money.
Switchblade	strength, power	Johnny carries a switchblade which makes him feel safer. It gives him strength and power that he otherwise feels he does not have.
Blue Mustang	upper-class, economic divide	Greasers on foot, Socs protected in cars
Rings on Soc's hand	wealth	These rings, which are a symbol of wealth, were used to cut up Johnny's face. This shows one advantage the Socs have over the Greasers because they have money.
The country	freedom, escape from social "rules"	The country represents a place in the Ponyboy's mind where there is no division among classes. It is an imaginary place of freedom for them.

*The Outsiders*  
Chapter 4

Respond

This chapter is deep. Things take a serious turn for Johnny and Ponyboy. Respond to each of the following passages taken from chapter four. Write your thoughts, opinions, and/or predictions.

About Dally - *"The fight for self-preservation had hardened him beyond caring."* (page 54)

Accept reasonable responses.

*Johnny, who wouldn't hurt a living thing on purpose, had taken a human life.*(56)

Accept reasonable responses.

*So we'd have to be hermits for the rest of our lives, and never see anyone but Dally.* (59)

Accept reasonable responses.

*The Outsiders*

Chapter 5

Setting is a combination of the time of day, the place where the scene occurs, the geographic location and the period of history.

Study the following chart to understand what setting may include.

Place	Time	Environment
The physical location The country, state, or city Mountains? Lake? Forest? Beach? Under a bridge?	Calendar and clock times Day, month, year Season Past, present, future	What are the details in the surroundings? What else is going on around the characters? Is it crowded? Isolated? Is the wind blowing? What is the weather like?

Look back in chapter five at the setting. Johnny and Ponyboy are now at a church, but there is more to the setting than that. In the box below, list details that relate to the setting provided throughout the chapter. Then, tell whether the details relate to the place, the time, or the environment. One has been done for you.

Detail	Place? Time? Environment?
...dry leaves outside (page 61) Quiet (61) Wind in the trees (61) Old wooden church (61) You could see for miles and miles (62) Across the valley (68) Covered with mist... sky was lighter in the east...(passage on 69)	Environment, time - fall Environment Environment Place Environment Place Environment

Look back toward the end of this chapter to the part where Ponyboy recites the poem to Johnny. Reread the passage before the poem that describes the sun rise.

After listening to the poem, Johnny says, *"I never noticed colors and clouds and stuff until you kept reminding me about them. It seems like they were never there before."*

At this point in the book, how is the setting affecting the characters?

The church provides a place for the boys to think about their situation and about the bigger picture in their lives. Life seems to slow down for them there and even allows them to reflect on nature.

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*“Nature’s first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf’s a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.”*

Ponyboy says that he was trying to find the meaning in the poem, but it “eluded” him. Let’s find the meaning ourselves.

To understand a poem, you must take it line by line and figure it out. Use these guided questions to help you figure out the meaning.

Line 1 - What could “nature’s first green” be? **The flowers, trees, or plants that come to life or bloom in the spring**

Why is this “first green” gold? **At first, some blooming flowers or plants seem gold when first budding instead of green. Gold is the actual hue of the plant before it turns green.**

Line 2 - Who is the “her” in this line? **nature**

What is a hue? **A color**

Why could this first hue be hard to hold? **Because it will quickly turn. It will not remain gold, but will turn to green.**

Line 3 - What does it mean by “early” leaf? **The leaf turns to a flower early in the spring.**

Line 4 - So this line means it is only a flower for how long? **For an hour - an exaggeration. It is really for a short season.**

Line 5 - What does the word subsides mean? **Dwindles or decreases**

So what is this line saying? **The flower soon dwindles and turns back into a leaf.**

Line 6 - This line has an allusion to the Garden of Eden in the Bible. How did Eden sink to grief? **The garden of Eden was perfect and people would live in paradise forever until it was ruined. Once sin entered, it sank to grief or sorrow.**

Line 7 - What does dawn turn into? **day**

Line 8 - Now, why can nothing gold stay? **Just as Gold turns to green, flower turns to leaf, and Eden sank to grief, everything changes. Nothing can stay new, fresh, young forever. Nothing can live forever; it’s the cycle of life.**

*The Outsiders*

Chapter 6

*No, it wasn't Cherry the Soc who was helping us, it was Cherry the dreamer who watched sunsets and couldn't stand fights.*

What is the significance of this passage?

Ponyboy is starting to realize that he and Cherry have something in common outside of their different social lives. He sees her as a real person who is similar to himself.

**Foreshadowing** is a literary device that provides a clue or a hint of what is to come. Sometimes, good foreshadowing is overlooked until something takes place.

Read the passage pulled from chapter three.

*I saw Johnny's cigarette glowing in the dark and wondered vaguely what it was like inside a burning ember...*

Again in this chapter we see the ember mentioned as Ponyboy thinks back to this thought about a burning ember.

*The cinders and embers began falling on us, stinging and smarting like ants. Suddenly, in the red glow, and the haze, I remembered wondering what it was like in a burning ember, and I thought: Now I know, it's a red hell. Why aren't I scared? (page 82)*

Besides foreshadowing, what else could be the importance of the ember?

**Accept reasonable answers.**

When Jerry, the man who rides in the ambulance with Ponyboy, doesn't know what a greaser is, this shows \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. that Jerry is too old to know anything
- b. that to the outside world, the greaser identity is meaningless
- c. that the ambulance was too loud for Jerry to hear
- d. that Jerry is a Soc

An epiphany is a term in literary criticism for a sudden realization--a flash of recognition in which someone or something is seen in a new light. What is Ponyboy's epiphany in this chapter? How does the climax in plot (the church fire) cause this epiphany?

He realizes that Darry really did care about him.

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*The Outsiders*

Test Chapters 1-6

1. What point of view is used in this book?
  - a. first person - Ponyboy's point of view
  - b. first person - Dally's point of view
  - c. third person limited
  - d. third person omniscient
2. What happened to Ponyboy's parents?
  - a. They abandoned Ponyboy and his brothers when they were young.
  - b. They were killed in an automobile wreck.
  - c. They were arrested and taken to prison.
  - d. They left to travel the world.
3. The Greasers versus the Socs is a rivalry between \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. country boys and city boys
  - b. different races
  - c. social classes
  - d. older and younger people
4. Which one of the Greasers is considered the gang's pet - the favorite?
  - a. Dally
  - b. Soda Pop
  - c. Two Bit
  - d. Johnny
5. Which of the following is considered a big part of the Greaser identity?
  - a. their knives
  - b. their hair
  - c. their slang
  - d. their houses
6. Johnny is portrayed as especially \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. vulnerable
  - b. skinny
  - c. brave
  - d. angry
7. Which of the brothers acts as a mediator or one who tries to keep the peace?
  - a. Ponyboy
  - b. Darry
  - c. SodaPop
8. How does Ponyboy think of Darry?
  - a. He feels that Darry doesn't love him.
  - b. He feels like he is only a problem for Darry.
  - c. He feels like Darry is too hard on him.
  - d. All of the above

9. Which of the following sets Ponyboy apart from the rest of the Greasers?
- his courage and respect for other Greasers
  - his hatred of the Socs
  - his intelligence and sensitivity
  - his willingness to fight
10. What affect does Cherry have on the Plot of the story?
- She helps Ponyboy realize that Socs are individuals too with their own problems.
  - She causes Ponyboy to resent the Socs even more than the others do.
  - She causes Ponyboy to sympathize with all Socs.
  - She helps all of the Greasers realize that the Socs are a lot like the Greasers.
11. The sunset mentioned in the first few chapters most likely symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
- light and love
  - the connection that people share
  - the need for friendship
  - the true identity of everyone
12. In chapter three, when Ponyboy says that he thinks that Darry “can’t stand him”, Two Bit replies, “No, Ponyboy, that ain’t right...you got it wrong...” Two-Bit’s reaction indicates \_\_\_\_\_.
- that Ponyboy is exactly right
  - that Ponyboy may not be right
  - that Darry resents having to raise his two brothers
  - that Darry should do a better job talking to Ponyboy
13. Cherry seems to be able to \_\_\_\_\_.
- understand the meaning of the boy’s nicknames
  - see the good in both Greasers and Socs
  - keep the boys from fighting one another
  - drive a blue Mustang fast and recklessly
14. Dally seems to have a \_\_\_\_\_ way of life.
- hard-hearted and criminal
  - peaceful and productive
  - sad and depressed
  - quiet and reserved
15. S.E. Hinton, the author, uses all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_.
- realistic dialogue that matches the time period of the novel
  - flashbacks to allow the reader to learn about the characters’ pasts
  - symbolism to create deeper meaning in the book
  - monologues to allow the reader to know the inner thoughts of the characters
16. Why do Ponyboy and Johnny cut their hair?
- to blend in with the Socs
  - so that the girls will like them
  - to disguise themselves
  - The Socs make them.

17. How does being in the church affect Johnny and Ponyboy?
- It gives them time to reflect on their lives and the lives of others.
  - It gives them time to appreciate nature like the clouds.
  - They are isolated in the church and begin to hate it.
  - All of the above**
18. At the end of chapter five, it is mentioned that Dally has a heater. What is a heater?
- a gun**
  - a knife
  - a portable machine that puts out warm air
  - a car
19. What book does Ponyboy read to Johnny while they are in the church?
- Huckleberry Finn*
  - Souder*
  - To Kill a Mockingbird*
  - Gone With the Wind***
20. After rescuing the children from the fire and seeing Darry crying in the hospital, Ponyboy realizes \_\_\_\_\_.
- that Darry really does care about him**
  - that Darry was the one who rescued him
  - that Darry thinks the fire is all his fault
  - that Darry is afraid that Ponyboy may die

**Theme:** The story's central message; a life lesson  
 Some things to remember about theme are as follows:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember the most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

Read the following passage from the end of chapter seven.

*Socs were just guys after all. Things were rough all over, but it was better that way. That way you could tell the other guy was human too.*

Based on the actions in the novel so far, this passage, and the entire compelling conversation in this chapter between Randy and Ponyboy, what do you think one of the main themes of this novel is?

Sample Answer: Things are rough for everyone. We are all humans who face struggles.

-----  
 Complete the following chart to show how this theme relates to several of the characters.

Character	How this theme fits this character
Johnny	Things are rough for Johnny at home. His parents are abusive.
Dally	Dally, like Johnny, has had a rough home life. He has become hardened as a person.
Randy	Randy loses one of his best friends to gang violence.
Darry	Darry has practically had to become a father to his two younger brothers. He holds a lot of responsibility after the death of his parents.
Cherry	Cherry is the one who helps Ponyboy see this theme - that things are hard for both Socs and Greasers. Cherry is aware of the social "pressure" and stress. She loses Bob - her boyfriend.

*The Outsiders*  
Chapter 8

Go back and find the passage where Johnny is talking about dying. It begins, *"I don't want to die now. It ain't long enough. Sixteen years ain't long enough..."*

Return to chapter five. Reread the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay". How does Johnny's situation relate to this poem? Write your answer in the box below. Try writing your own poem about Johnny and the situation he is in now.

Johnny was the gold. He showed that he was "gold" when he risked his life to rescue the children from the fire. The poem rings true for Johnny's life because at the young age of 16, he is dying. Nothing gold can stay. Johnny can't stay.

Find a passage that is used as foreshadowing in this chapter. Write it on the line below. Foreshadowing creates suspense. After finding the foreshadowing, what do you predict will happen?

Foreshadowing in chapter 8 *I had a sick feeling in my stomach and it wasn't from being ill. It was the same kind of helplessness I'd felt that night Darry yelled at me for going to sleep in the lot. I had the same deathly fear that something was going to happen that none of us could stop. As we got off the bus I finally said it. "Tonight - I don't like it one bit."*

My prediction Accept reasonable predictions.

Reread the last page of this chapter. Again the sunset is mentioned. Why do you think the author writes about the sunset again? How do these lines about the sunset reveal the changes in Ponyboy's thoughts about the Socs and the Greasers?

Sample Answer: The sunset is a symbol of a bridge between the Socs and the Greasers. Ponyboy is realizing that they are all human and more alike than he once thought.

*The Outsiders*

Chapter 12

The title of this book is a theme in itself. Explain how *The Outsiders* is related to the theme of “fitting in” and “identity”.

Sample answer: "The outsiders" are the main characters, the Curtis brothers and the other Greasers. All of us, as humans, are *outside* of something. At some point, perhaps on a daily basis, many of us feel separate from and different from others. But, as Ponyboy learns, these things can also connect us. Throughout the book, Ponyboy comes to realize that Greasers and Socials are connected in several ways. Ponyboy states early in the book, "Maybe the two different worlds we live in weren't so different. We saw the same sunset". The title refers to all of the characters in some ways. We are all "Outsiders", and sometimes this is the one thing that unites us.

In your own words, what do you think is the most important theme in this novel?

Theme: Accept reasonable answers

Passage that supports my theme

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Scan the book to find a memorable quote. Write the quote in the box below. Then, explain why you chose this particular quote.

I chose this quote because

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*The Outsiders*

Test

- Which of the following is the best overall tone of this novel?
  - profound and at times angry
  - lighthearted and touching
  - sarcastic and at times frightening
  - suspenseful and humorous
- In the novel, the use of the first person point of view allows the author to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - share only Ponyboy's inner thoughts and feelings
  - concentrate on creating unusual characters
  - share what many of the characters are thinking and feeling
  - describe the story's setting in vivid details
- Which of the following best describes Dally?
  - rebellious and independent
  - playful and energetic
  - quiet and mean
  - intelligent yet sneaky
- Ponyboy has several internal conflicts throughout the novel. Which of the following is not a part of an internal conflict for him?
  - his relationship with his brothers
  - his identity
  - gang violence
  - his grades in school
- The character Cherry is portrayed as a \_\_\_\_\_ character.
  - a jealous
  - a sympathetic
  - a cruel
  - a timid
- Ponyboy and Johnny go into hiding after \_\_\_\_\_.
  - killing a Soc
  - pulling a knife at the drive-in
  - making a bet with the Socs
  - stealing something from the store
- Which of the following would be considered the "meekest" greaser?
  - Ponyboy
  - Dally
  - Darry
  - Johnny
- Which of the following best describes Johnny's relationship with his parents?
  - solid
  - troubled
  - abusive
  - healthy

9. Which of the following characters had the motto, "Get tough like me and you won't get hurt"?
- Ponyboy
  - Dally**
  - Two-Bit
  - Johnny
10. All of the following are themes or issues in the book except \_\_\_\_\_.
- heroism
  - friendship
  - stereotypes
  - divorce**
11. This book is set in \_\_\_\_\_.
- the 1950s and 1960s**
  - the 1970s and 1980s
  - the 1980s and 1990s
  - present day
12. In the end, Ponyboy learns that \_\_\_\_\_.
- without money, nothing is possible
  - the Socs aren't that different from the Greasers
  - things are hard all over
  - both b and c**
13. How does Johnny change after he is beaten up by the Socs?
- He becomes more angry and aggressive.
  - He becomes more nervous and afraid.**
  - He becomes indifferent - not caring about anything.
  - He becomes sympathetic toward the Socs.
14. Why is hair so important to the Greasers?
- It causes the girls to like them.
  - It gives them the power to be physically stronger.
  - It is a matter of pride and identity for them.**
  - It makes the Socs jealous.
15. When Ponyboy and Johnny are guilty of murder, and the man at the scene of the fire tells them they must be sent from heaven, this is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a flashback
  - ironic**
  - symbolic
  - imagery
16. What happens to Dally?
- He is sentenced to life in prison.
  - He decides to go to college.
  - He moves in with Ponyboy and his brothers.
  - He is shot by a police officer.**

17. At the end of the book, which of the following does Ponyboy learn?
- a. He learns that hard is what makes a person strong.
  - b. He learns that people are not defined by what group they belong to but by who they are as individuals.**
  - c. He learns that no matter what the Socs will always be the same.
  - d. He learns that being tough like Dally is the best way to live.
18. Johnny's vulnerability contrasts with Dally's \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. kindness
  - b. selfishness
  - c. ruggedness**
  - d. shyness
19. The poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" mirrors \_\_\_\_\_ life.
- a. Ponyboy's
  - b. Johnny's**
  - c. Cherry's
  - d. Darry's
20. The first sentences of Ponyboy's essay \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. are very sad
  - b. are the same as the first sentences of the novel**
  - c. are the very same words that Johnny spoke before he died
  - d. are an analysis of the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay"

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