

RCTCM 8th GRADE ELA
Summer Reading Assignment

Required Reading: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

1. S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders is about two weeks in the life of a 14-year-old boy. The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. S.E. Hinton first published The Outsiders in 1967 by Viking Press. Since then, the book has sold upwards of 15 million copies, become a steady feature on middle school reading lists, and inspired an award winning Francis Ford Coppola film of the same name.
2. **Assignment: Read, annotate the novel, The Outsiders, and answer the chapter questions.** In order for you to actively read and connect with the text, we require you to purchase a copy. It is available at Barnes & Noble (at the mall and online); you can also purchase used copies from Second and Charles on Washington Road or from Amazon.com. Write down your thoughts as you read through the book. Do NOT summarize the book.

Reference the website to properly annotate the text.


<https://www.sadlier.com/school/ela-blog/teaching-annotation-to-students-grades-2-8-annotating-text-strategies-that-will-enhance-close-reading> (Annotating with a Purpose)

Major Goals of 8th grade English/Language Arts:

Students will interpret, analyze, and evaluate a major literary work: The Outsiders

- Literary elements: Plot, characters, theme, setting, conflict, point of view.
- Reading strategies: visualize, predict, summarize, connect, analyze, question, clarify, evaluate and sequence.
- The reading process.

Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the Summer Reading Assignment.



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THE OUTSIDERS CHAPTER QUESTIONS

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Who are the Socs and the Greasers?
2. How is Ponyboy different from the other members of his gang?
3. How does Ponyboy's relationship with Darry and Sodapop differ? Explain.
4. What does the reader learn about what happened to Johnny before the story began?
5. What happens to Ponyboy when he walks home from the movies?
6. What is the difference between "tuff" and "tough"?
7. How does Ponyboy relate to Pip from Great Expectations?
8. Explain the altercation at the drive-in.
9. Why doesn't Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
10. What does Ponyboy mean when he says, "I lie to myself all the time?"

Chapters 3 and 4


1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the greasers?
2. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?
3. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?
4. To whom do Ponyboy and Johnny go for help? What does he give them? What does he tell them to do?
5. Why does Johnny react so violently to the Socs?

Chapters 5 and 6

1. What is Ponyboy's issue with Johnny's suggestion that they disguise themselves?
2. Why does Johnny think Dally is a hero? Do you think he is a hero based on this?
3. What poem is referenced to in these chapters? Who wrote the poem?
4. Why are the Socs and Greasers going to have a rumble?
5. Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in? Why does Johnny insist on confessing?
6. What happens at the church?
7. What does Ponyboy realize about Darry at the end of chapter 6?

Chapters 7 and 8

1. What condition were Dally and Johnny in?
2. Why did Darry never lock the front door to the house and what does this say about the Greasers?
3. How are Ponyboy, Johnny and Dally portrayed in the newspaper article?
4. Why did everyone go silent when Pony asked Soda if he would take Sandy to the party?
5. What was Bob's real problem, according to Randy?
6. Why doesn't Johnny want to see his mother?
7. What was it about Darry that made him different from the rest of the gang?



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Chapters 9 and 10

1. What were the reasons that the various boy gave for fighting?
2. Why did Dally take Ponyboy to see Johnny after the rumble?
3. What are the two things Greasers have to be proud of?
4. Why does Ponyboy feel he and his gang don't belong with Tim Sheperd's gang and the Brumley boys?
5. Who joins the rumble at the last minute?
6. How does the fight end?
7. What did Johnny mean when he told Ponyboy to "stay gold"?
8. Do you think the rumble was worth the trouble?
9. Why is Dally so upset about Johnny's death?
10. What did Johnny leave for Ponyboy?

Chapters 11 and 12

1. Why do you think Ponyboy was ill?
2. Why was Ponyboy concerned about his friends seeing his house but not about Randy seeing his house?
3. Why did Ponyboy say he'd killed Bob and that Johnny wasn't dead?
4. Why was the court hearing important? What were possible decisions of the court?
5. Why do you think Ponyboy's life was still troubled after the court hearing?
6. What do you think the doctor told the judge before the hearing?
7. Why does Ponyboy think that his experiences as a Greaser are important for everyone to read about?
8. Why is the last sentence of the book unusual?