

# **The Outsiders**

**By S.E. Hinton**

## **Reading/ Comprehension Guide**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

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

## Day 1 Activity

Assignment:

Answer the following questions before we begin reading *The Outsiders*:

Gangs are a fact of life in *The Outsiders*. The story deals with conflicts between two groups, the rich Socs and the generally poor Greasers.

What do you know about gangs?

Are gangs formed based on social class today or on some other connection?

How do gangs differentiate themselves from each other?

What activities do gangs engage in?

Day 1 Assignment:

Read Chapter 1

Describe each of the following characters based on the information provided in Chapter 1:

Ponyboy:

Darry:

Sodapop:

Steve:

Two Bit:

Dallas:

Johnny:

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Day 2:

Read Chapter 2 and answer the following question.

Social Class refers to a group of people who share the same economic level. The Socs and the Greasers represent two social classes.

What kinds of things separate the East side from the West side? Create and complete the Venn Diagram.

Based on the Venn Diagram how do the Greasers and Socs differ in survival of their own social class. Do you believe that one class has it easier than others? Why?

What do you think Cherry means when she tells Ponyboy that “things are rough all over?” Why is this statement important?

## Assignment

Day 3

Read Chapters 3-4

Answer the following questions:

Why are greasers and Socs so concerned about their reputation? How are each group seen by society?

What does Ponyboy believe isn't fair about being a greaser?

Choose one character from Chapter 3-4 and answer the following question:

How did this individual's choice impact others' actions, thoughts, or beliefs. What was that choice and what impact did it have?

Day 4:  
Read Chapters 5-6

Answer the following Comprehension questions about Chapters 5-6

What impresses Johnny the most in *Gone with the Wind*?

Why does Cherry decide to tell people that she will testify for Ponyboy and Johnny?

Why do you think Johnny is so determined to save the children in the church?

Ponyboy and Johnny are watching the sunrise when Johnny quotes from the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" that is near the middle of Chapter 5. What do you think the "gold" represent? What do you think the poem means? Explain your answer using evidence from the text in at least 2 paragraphs.

Day 5:

Read Chapter 7:

What do Randy and Ponyboy learn from each other based on their conversation in Chapter 7? Explain in 2 paragraphs

What does Ponyboy mean when he says “ Things were rough all over, but it was better that way. That way you could tell the other guy was human too.” Explain in 1 paragraph

Day 8:

Read Chapters 8-9

Ponyboy says that Johnny looks “younger when he’s asleep.” How have Johnny’s experiences made him look older? What does Johnny mean when he says that during his sixteen years on the streets he has seen “all the wrong sights, not the sights you want to see”?

What makes Greasers different from “hoods” like Tim Shepherd’s gang?

What are Johnny’s last words to Ponyboy? What does he mean by those words?



Day 9:

Read Chapter 10-11

Ponyboy knows that in his neighborhood you hoods grow up to be old hoods, but he doesn't think this will happen to him and Darry. What does he admire about his brother Darry? How will this keep Ponyboy from becoming an old hood himself? Explain your ideas in at least 2 paragraphs.

In Chapter 10 Ponyboy compares Dallas to Johnny. How does Dallas change in his eyes? Why do people still consider him a hoodlum even though he saved a life?

Why does Randy come to visit Ponyboy before the hearing?

Day 10  
Chapter 12

Johnny leaves Ponyboy a note in his copy of *Gone with the Wind*. He tells Pony to “stay gold”. Do you think Ponyboy will take his advice? Why or why not? Write another chapter about Ponyboy after he turns in his English paper. 3 -5 paragraphs.

Please use a separate sheet of paper to answer this question.

How do these characters social statues impact their lives?

What lessons have you learned through the struggles of individual characters?