

The Outsiders



By

S.E. Hinton

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

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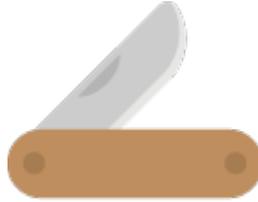


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About the author: Joel Reed has over 70 published novel studies and is the author of four novels. For information on his work and literature, please visit www.reednovelstudies.com

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each section of the novel study focuses on one or two chapters of *The Outsiders* and is comprised of five of the following activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. The *Reading Standards for Literature*, makes reference to:

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include growing up, overcoming violence, respect for authority, abuse, facing difficult circumstances.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *anagrams*
7. Use of singular/plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Determining alphabetical order
11. Identify *personification*
12. Identify/create *similes*

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete a story pyramid
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel
6. Write a description of chapter events

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Casting a feature film
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Complete a character comparison

Creative and Critical Thinking

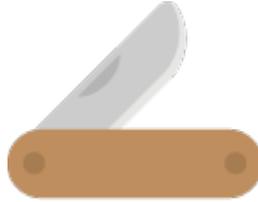
1. Complete research projects
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write about personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Ponyboy can count on his brothers. And on his friends. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up “greasers” like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect – until the night someone takes things too far. (Courtesy of the publisher: Penguin Books)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Outsiders_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Outsiders_(novel))

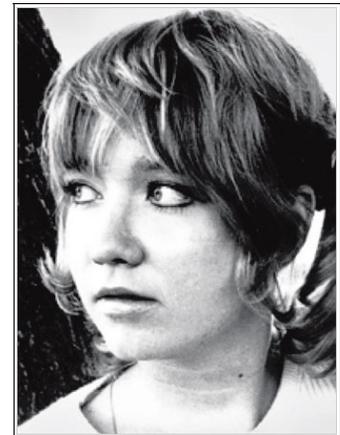
(Warning: Website contains plot spoilers)

Author Biography

S.E. Hinton

Susan Eloise Hinton (born July 22, 1948) is an American writer best known for her young-adult novels set in Oklahoma. In 1988 she received the inaugural Margaret Edwards Award from the *American Library Association* for her cumulative contribution in writing for teens.

While still in her teens, Hinton became a household name as the author of *The Outsiders*, her first and most popular novel. She began writing it in 1965. The book was inspired by two rival gangs at her school, Will Rogers High School, the Greasers and the Socs, and her desire to show sympathy toward the Greasers by writing from their point of view. It was published by *Viking Press* in 1967, during her freshman year at the *University of Tulsa*. Since then, the book has sold more than 14 million copies and still sells more than 500,000 a year.



Biography courtesy of Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S. E. Hinton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S._E._Hinton)

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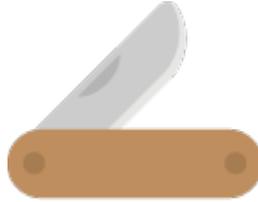


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Name: _____

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Chapter 1



Before you read the chapter:

In your own words, briefly describe what you think it means to be an outsider.



Vocabulary:

Synonyms are words that means the same (or nearly the same) as another word, and **antonyms** are words that means the opposite of another word. Your task is to write two different antonyms and two different synonyms for each of the words listed in the chart below.

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
Terrific		
Friend		
Strong		
Caring		

Delightful		
Essential		
Inaccurate		
Engrossing		

Questions



- Briefly describe the setting of our story as Chapter One begins.

- Circle the correct writing narrative that the novel follows, and the reason for your choice.

First Person Second Person Third Person

- Match the character descriptions with the characters found in *The Outsiders*.

1	Ponyboy Curtis		A	A member of the Greasers who had once spent time in New York City.
2	Sodapop Curtis		B	The best friend of Sodapop Curtis.
3	Darrel 'Darry' Curtis		C	The second oldest in the Curtis family.
4	Dallas 'Dally' Winston		D	A member of the Greasers who was given a vicious beating by the Socs.
5	Johnny Cade		E	A member of the Greasers known for shoplifting and carrying a switchblade.
6	Steve Randle		F	The main protagonist of our novel.
7	Keith 'Two-Bit' Matthews		G	The legal guardian of Ponyboy Curtis.

4. Briefly describe the differences between the Socs (Socials) and the Greasers.

The Socs (Socials):
The Greasers:

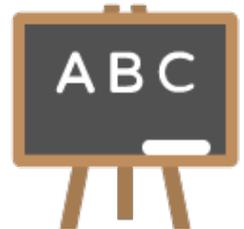
5. Put yourself in Ponyboy's shoes. How would you feel being abused by others?

b. Do you think abuse can result in permanent mental problems? Why or why not?

Language Activity



A. There are many writers that enjoy using **alliteration** - a literary device is where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. Here's an example of an alliteration: "grouching, grouchng, grumbling, griping about something or other."



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

The sounds of a city.	
The sights of a school.	
Alliteration from your own imagination.	

B. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **ARRESTED** can also form the word **SERRATED**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:



Using the word in the left-hand column move [all of] the letters around in any order to form brand new words. Find as many new words as possible for each word.

Word	Anagrams
Acted	
Delayer	
Aspired	
Restrain	
Alerting	
Carets	
Least	

C. Self Reflection

Take a few minutes to answer the following questions on the topic of *self reflection*.

How would you describe your own character and actions toward others?
What would you consider to be your biggest strength?
What would you consider to be your biggest weakness or flaw?

Extension Activity



Storyboard

A storyboard is a series of pictures that tell about an important event in a story. A storyboard can tell the story of only one scene - or the entire novel.



Complete the storyboard below illustrating the events described in the first chapter of *The Outsiders*. You may wish to practice your drawings before you begin.

1	2
3	4
5	6