The Outsiders
By S. E. Hinton

A Study Guide
Meet the Author
S. E. Hinton

A successful author of literature for young people, Susan Eloise Hinton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1950. As a teenager, Hinton loved to read, but found that the variety of adolescent stories was limited. “The kids’ books were all about Mary Jane-Goes-to-the-Prom. I wrote The Outsiders so I’d have something to read.” She wrote The Outsiders when she was only sixteen. It is a story about a young teen’s effort to find himself.

The Outsiders became very popular and eventually became a movie. Its success enabled Hinton to attend the University of Tulsa. In 1970 she earned her degree in education. She also met her future husband, David Inhofe, while at the university. In 1971, she wrote her next novel, That Was Then, This Is Now. It is about two brothers whose lives take different paths. She has stated that she prefers to write from a male point of view.

Other Hinton novels include Rumblefish (1975), Tex (1979), and Taming the Star Runner (1988). Her latest novels are Big David, Little David and The Puppy Sister; they were written in 1995 and 1997 respectively. The author received many literary awards and honors for her writing.

S. E. Hinton is the mother of two sons, Nicholas and David. She presently lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.
Pre-Reading Activity

Tulsa, Oklahoma

When S. E. Hinton wrote The Outsiders she was a high-school student in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She based her writings on her own observations of teenagers.

Tulsa, the second largest city in Oklahoma after Oklahoma City, is located on the Arkansas River in the northeastern part of the state. Settlement in Tulsa began in 1836 by the Creek Indians, who moved there from Alabama. The area grew in population with the advent of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway in 1882. The railway brought many new settlers to Tulsa. Cattle shipping was the main industry. In 1901, vast deposits of petroleum were found near Tulsa, making Tulsa the “Oil Capital of the World!” Today the production of natural gas and the manufacture of aircraft are also important.

Oklahoma

Research Oklahoma and answer the following questions.

1. When and how did Oklahoma become part of the United States?

   Oklahoma became part of the U.S in 1803 with the purchase of the Louisiana Territory.

2. When did Oklahoma become a state? What does the word “Oklahoma” mean?

   OK became the 46th state in 1907

   "Oklahoma" in Chektaw means "Red man"

3. What is meant by the “Trail of Tears?”

   Death and hardship resulting from its people moving around.

4. Why is Oklahoma called the Sooner State?

   Many settlers try to enter the land area and claim it sooner than it was legal to do so.
Vocabulary
Chapter 1

Match the vocabulary words on the left to the definitions on the right. Place the correct letter on each line.

1. affection
2. automatically
3. conscious
4. disgrace
5. drowsily
6. fierce
7. gingerly
8. hence
9. instantly
10. madras
11. rarities
12. rivalry
13. suffocate
14. tight-knit
15. trembling
16. unfathomable

A. shame; loss of honor
B. shaking, as from fear or sickness
C. right away; immediately
D. aware
E. for this reason
F. a type of cotton cloth of fine texture
G. uncommon items
H. competition
I. fond or tender feelings toward another
J. to keep from breathing
K. sleepily
L. not understood
M. moving or acting by itself; done without conscious control
N. ferocious; raging
O. with extreme caution
P. close; bound by mutual interests and affection

Writing Activity
Would you rather be a greaser or Soc? Write your opinion in the space below. Use vocabulary words from the first part of this activity in your writing.

Opinions May Vary...

The greasers had done nothing to deserve being hated by the Socs. I would rather be poor and not wrong than rich and in the wrong. I would only hurt someone if I was defending myself.

The greasers are unfathomable. Socs are down to earth and fond to each other. Hence I would rather be a GREASER.
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 1

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Describe the characteristics that made Ponyboy unique among his friends.
   Unlike most greasers, Ponyboy liked to read, to draw, and to watch movies. He tried to stay out of trouble. He got good grades and was very intelligent.

2. Compare and contrast the Socs and the greasers.
   The Socs were rich, looked clean cut. They came from the west side of the town. The greasers were poor. They dressed in blue jeans and T-shirts. Both groups got into trouble. The Socs were the bullies, the greasers were the "hoods." (Socs) The Socs don't respect the greasers, they beat them up. They would never be like them, rich and successful.

3. Why did the greasers resent the Socs?

4. Explain the reason for the tension between Ponyboy and Darry. Give your opinion.
   Ponyboy didn't think Darry loved him. He couldn't please him no matter what he did. Darry was responsible for Pony and Soda after the death of their parents. Darry was afraid he and his brothers wouldn't be allowed to stay together, unless they stay out of trouble.

5. The author used a metaphor to describe Johnny Cade. Explain.
   She compared him to a puppy that has been mistreated and therefore, nervous and suspicious. (P.11)
**Comprehension and Discussion Questions**

**Chapter 1**

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   The Socs respected the greasers. They beat them up. They would never be like them, rich and successful.

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   Ponyboy didn't think Darry loved him. He couldn't please him no matter what he did. Darry was responsible for Pony and Soda after the death of the parents. Darry was afraid he and his brothers wouldn't be allowed to stay together. Unless they stay out of trouble.

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Vocabulary
Chapter 2

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences. You may need to use your dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hastily</th>
<th>impatient</th>
<th>brisk</th>
<th>bickered</th>
<th>coward</th>
<th>rebellious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>concession</td>
<td>sarcastic</td>
<td>muffled</td>
<td>reforms</td>
<td>digesting</td>
<td>feud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embarrassed</td>
<td>hoodlum</td>
<td>gasp</td>
<td>site</td>
<td>ligaments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The brisk wind scattered the leaves around the garden.
2. Samantha hastily cleaned up the mess; she didn’t have much time because her parents were due home any minute.
3. The baby had trouble digesting the new food.
4. Ryan stopped at the concession stand to buy a snack.
5. He acted like a coward when he ran away from the bully.
6. The runner was impatient to start the race and began too soon.
7. Cara often acted in a disobedient, rebellious manner.
8. The new school committee made many reforms that will benefit the school.
9. The greasers and the Socs had a feud that led to violence.
10. Tom injured the ligaments in his foot during the basketball game.
11. During the long car ride, the children bickered about who would sit by the window.
12. When my friends and I sat at the back of the theater, the voices of the actors sounded muffled.
13. Dan seemed a bit embarrassed when he came in last in the relay race.
14. The vacant lot was chosen as the site for the new community center.
15. A classmate’s sarcastic comment hurt her feelings.

Two of the words in the above activity were not used. Write an original sentence using each.

He was so shocked, he was gasping for air! Al Capone had a reputation to be a hoodlum!
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 2

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why, do you think, did Dally harass Cherry and Marcia?

   Dally always seemed tired to blow off steam. In New York, he took part in gang fights. Here he took out his feelings of hatred on the Socs. He took pleasure in embarrassing the girls.

2. What caused Dally to stare at Johnny in disbelief? Why was Dally’s response unusual for him?

   Johnny stepped in and told Dally to stop bothering the girls. Johnny was not usually so bold, especially to Dally. If it had been anyone but Johnny, Dally wouldn’t have let him get away with speaking to him that way.

3. Explain why Two-Bit’s trick on Johnny was especially cruel.

   Two-Bit pretended to be a Soc and said, “Okay, greasers, you’ve had it.” Johnny had been badly beaten by a Soc and mentally tortured. He had already been a nervous wreck from being mistreated by his parents. After the beating, Johnny got more nervous than ever.

4. What argument did Cherry use to defend the Socs?

   Cherry said that not all Socs were like the Ones who attacked Johnny. She said that Socs have problems too.
# Vocabulary
## Chapter 3

A **synonym** is a word that has a meaning similar to that of another word. An **antonym** is a word that has a meaning opposite to that of another word. Use your dictionary or thesaurus to write a synonym and an antonym for each of the following vocabulary words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY WORD</th>
<th>SYNONYM</th>
<th>ANTONYM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. aloof</td>
<td>distant</td>
<td>friendly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. bleak</td>
<td>gloomy</td>
<td>cheerful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. cunning</td>
<td>clever, tricky</td>
<td>simple, naive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. elite</td>
<td>upperclass, noble</td>
<td>lowerclass, common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. emotional</td>
<td>passionate</td>
<td>placid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. frustration</td>
<td>discouragement</td>
<td>satisfaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. grimly</td>
<td>sadly, harshly</td>
<td>happily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. impersonal</td>
<td>detached</td>
<td>involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. ornery</td>
<td>disobedient</td>
<td>cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. passionate</td>
<td>jealous</td>
<td>unfeeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. pity</td>
<td>sympathy</td>
<td>envy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. quivering</td>
<td>trembling</td>
<td>calm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. resigned</td>
<td>contented</td>
<td>dissatisfied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. sassy</td>
<td>insolent</td>
<td>well-behaved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. sophisticated</td>
<td>worldly-wise</td>
<td>naive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write original sentences that describe characters or events that have occurred in this story. Use at least five vocabulary words from the first part of the activity in your sentences.

1. Cherry sums it all up when she says that the *greasers* are more emotional and her friends *socs* are sophisticated.
2. Sodapop’s horse, MM was on the ornery side.
3. The *socs* were aloof and cunning while the *greasers* are rather friendly.
Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 3

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. What did Cherry say to Ponyboy that caused “a nervous bitterness” to grow inside him?
   
   Cherry said that she couldn’t talk to him at school and she couldn’t let her parents see them together.

2. Which of Cherry’s statements came as a big surprise to Ponyboy and caused his mouth to drop? In your opinion, why was Ponyboy surprised?
   
   Cherry said, “I could fall in love with Dallas Winston.”
   
   Pony was expecting that she would say that she could fall in love with him, not Dallas Winston.

3. Explain how Darry acted as a parent when Ponyboy arrived home late. Judge Ponyboy’s reaction. What would you have done in this situation if you were Darry?
   
   Darry yelled at him and slapped him. Ponyboy thought that Darry didn’t want him around. He didn’t realize that Darry was upset because he was so worried about him. At first he was going to run away, but he decided against it.

4. The author used foreshadowing with the cliffhanger at the end of the chapter. Explain. Predict what might happen later in the story.
   
   The author clearly indicated that things will get worse. Most of the stories reach a climax when protagonist and antagonist are in a confrontation mode.
Read each sentence. Then circle the most appropriate definition for the word printed in bold as it is used in that sentence.

1. The abandoned house across the street is sorely in need of repair.
   - old
   - rambling
   - deserted

2. The child seemed apprehensive about his first day of school.
   - happy
   - worried
   - carefree

3. Lost in the mountains, the bewildered children tried to find their way home.
   - watchful
   - puzzled
   - scared

4. My little cousin acts defiantly when his mother gives him a command.
   - stubbornly
   - helpfully
   - submissively

5. An injury to her head made Diane feel groggy.
   - helpless
   - dazed
   - grouchy

6. A hotel fire caused panic among the guests.
   - anger
   - fearfulness
   - cooperation

7. Ben had a premonition that his wish would come true.
   - hope
   - promise
   - forewarning

8. We must all work to preserve our national parks.
   - enlarge
   - improve
   - safeguard

9. The lost and scraggly puppy was a rueful sight.
   - pitiful
   - happy
   - welcome

10. The weary runner slouched as he neared the finish line.
    - waved
    - yelled
    - drooped
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 4

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. In Chapter 2 the author used foreshadowing to suggest that Johnny might kill someone. Re-read the section in which Ponyboy described to Cherry how Johnny had been beaten up by Socs. Find the excerpt that foreshadowed the events in Chapter 4.

   The excerpt should include: "And Johnny, who was the most law-abiding of all of us, now carried in his back pocket a switchblade... He would kill the next person who jumped him."

2. Do you think that Johnny was justified in killing Bob? Give your reasons.

   Answers will vary:
   He had to do it. Bob was drowning Ponyboy. Johnny wanted to save his friend. The Socs didn't have to jump them. They were not causing any problems.

3. Explain why the boys turned to Dally for help. In what ways did Dally aid them?

   They knew that Dally had been in serious situations and they thought he would know what to do and how to get them what they needed. He gave them a gun and money. He told them to take the freight train to Windrixville and hide out in an abandoned church.

4. Ponyboy had always dreamed of going to the country. What was his reaction when he finally arrived there?

   He knew he wouldn't like it as much as he thought because he would have to stay in hiding.
Vocabulary
Chapter 5

Choose the word in each set that is most like the first word in meaning.

1. **blurted**
   - exclaimed
   - murmured
   - soothed

2. **calm**
   - noisy
   - upset
   - **peaceful**

3. **clenched**
   - grabbed
   - dropped
   - **held**

4. **disguised**
   - camouflaged
   - displayed
   - **paraded**

5. **elude**
   - pursue
   - face
   - escape

6. **fiendish**
   - malicious
   - friendly
   - sympathetic

7. **fumbled**
   - connected
   - mishandled
   - prolonged

8. **quavering**
   - questioning
   - upsetting
   - **trembling**

Circle the word in each set that is most unlike the first word in meaning.

1. **gallant**
   - courteous
   - thoughtless
   - heroic

2. **gorged**
   - devoured
   - nibbled
   - gobbled

3. **implored**
   - beseeched
   - suggested
   - **demanded**

4. **nudged**
   - nuzzled
   - tapped
   - punched

5. **startled**
   - prepared
   - shocked
   - frightened

6. **sullen**
   - disagreeable
   - happy
   - gloomy

7. **vital**
   - important
   - insignificant
   - necessary

8. **wistful**
   - content
   - wishful
   - longing
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 5

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Ponyboy resisted having his hair cut. Why, do you think, did the greasers place such high value on their hair?

2. In what way did Johnny compare Dally to the Southern gentlemen in Gone with the Wind?

3. Explain the significance of Robert Frost's poem.

4. How did Bob's murder affect the relationship between the Socs and the greasers? What surprising news did Dally give Johnny and Ponyboy about Cherry?
**Vocabulary**

**Chapter 6**

**PART ONE: Definitions**

Use your dictionary to define the following words as they were used in the story.

1. conviction: ____________________________
2. detached: ____________________________
3. doggedly: ____________________________
4. embers: ____________________________
5. hesitation: ____________________________
6. husky: ____________________________
7. hysterics: ____________________________
8. inhalation: ____________________________
9. irritated: ____________________________
10. keeled: ____________________________
11. scowling: ____________________________
12. sensitive: ____________________________
13. smarting: ____________________________
14. staggered: ____________________________
15. surveyed: ____________________________
16. suspicious: ____________________________
17. testify: ____________________________
PART TWO: Create a Crossword Puzzle!
Use the vocabulary words from the first part of this activity to create an original crossword puzzle. Try to use all of them! Number the boxes horizontally and vertically. Darken the boxes that you are not using. Exchange with a classmate to solve!

Across

Down
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 6

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why did Johnny decide to turn himself in to the police?
   He believes he had a good chance of getting off easy with the help of Pony and the Cherry's testimony. Also, he didn't think it was fair for Pony to have to stay in hiding with his brothers worrying about him.

2. Describe how Johnny and Ponyboy acted heroically. Why didn’t they take Dally’s advice?
   They ran back to get the children out of the church. They felt responsible for accidentally starting the fire. They risked their lives to save the children even though Dally warned them that the roof was about to cave in.

3. Why did Dally suddenly enter the burning building? Why did he hit Ponyboy? How do we know this if Ponyboy, the narrator, was unconscious?
   Dally entered the building to rescue Johnny. He hit Pony because Pony’s back was on fire. We know these facts about what happened when Pony was unconscious because Jerry Wood related the facts to Ponyboy.

4. What made Ponyboy realize at last that Darry loved him? Explain what he meant by “I was finally home to stay.”
   He saw Darry’s tears and realized the depth of Darry’s love for him. He finally understood that Darry’s behavior towards him had been motivated by his fear of losing him. Ponyboy no longer felt unwanted.
Vocabulary
Chapter 7

Use the vocabulary words and phrases in the box to complete the sentences. You may want to use your dictionary.

Vocabulary Box:
- aghast
- appeal
- bum
- critical
- daze
- exploits
- gleefully
- half-heartedly
- juvenile delinquent
- manslaughter
- mimicking
- mourning
- palomino
- radiates
- recurring
- resist
- trembling

1. The violence of the tornado left us ___aghast___.
2. You can ___resist___ infections if you eat well and get plenty of rest.
3. Sally was so frightened that her voice was ___trembling___.
4. The ___exploits___ of Lewis and Clark are well described.
5. Energy ___radiates___ from the sun.
6. We were ___mourning___ the loss of our great dog, Champ.
7. Our coach will ___appeal___ the umpire’s decision.
8. The ___recurring___ colors formed a pattern.
9. After winning the game, we left the field ___gleefully___.
10. We were in trouble for our teacher’s way of talking.
11. The long nap left Bob in a ___daze___.
12. The boy’s condition was ___critical___ as a result of the automobile accident.

Some of the words in the first part of this activity were not used. Write original sentences using these words.

- He was accused of manslaughter and got life in prison.
- The opposing team gave us a half-hearted handshake amid their crushing defeat.
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 7

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. What bad news did Ponyboy and his brothers learn about Johnny’s condition?
   The doctor told them that Johnny was in a critical condition. If he lived, he would be crippled for the rest of his life.

2. The newspaper article praised the actions of Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dallas; however, something in the column about him, Soda, and Darry disturbed Ponyboy. Explain.
   It made it evident that the authorities were thinking of taking Ponyboy and Soda away from Darry.

3. According to Randy, what did most of the Socs want from their parents?
   They wanted their parents to set some limits and show them the righteous way.

4. Why did Randy decide not to participate in the rumble?
   He was sick of the fighting and the killing. He knew that it wouldn't accomplish anything.
Vocabulary
Chapter 8

Use your dictionary or thesaurus to write a synonym and an antonym for each of the following vocabulary words.

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<tr>
<td>3. ashamed</td>
<td>embarrassed</td>
<td>proud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. casual</td>
<td>informal</td>
<td>formal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. debate</td>
<td>argue</td>
<td>agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. divert</td>
<td>deflect</td>
<td>follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. faltered</td>
<td>hesitated</td>
<td>strengthened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. mere</td>
<td>minute</td>
<td>vast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. reluctantly</td>
<td>unwillingly</td>
<td>eagerly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. scarce</td>
<td>rare</td>
<td>plentiful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. showpiece</td>
<td>masterpiece</td>
<td>trash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use any five of the vocabulary words above in sentences of your own.

Answers will vary
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 8

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why was it important that Johnny be able to see *Gone With the Wind* when he awoke?
   
   Johnny had really enjoyed listening to Pony read the book to him while they were in the church. He was especially impressed by the manners and charm of the Southern gentlemen during the civil war.

2. Do you agree with Johnny’s decision not to see his mother?
   
   Answers will vary.

3. Judge the following statement: “The only thing that keeps Darry from bein’ a Soc is us.”
   
   If Darry didn’t have to raise his brothers on his own he probably would have gone to college and would have been able to get a better job.

4. What qualities did Cherry admire both in Bob and in Dally?
   
   Both had charisma and leadership qualities. They stood out in a crowd.
## Vocabulary

### Chapter 9

Match the vocabulary words on the left to the definitions on the right. Place the correct letter on each line.

1. amplifier  
2. awed  
3. bolted  
4. conformity  
5. contempt  
6. escort  
7. grimacing  
8. hence  
9. leery  
10. menace  
11. mortal  
12. ruefully  
13. smoldering  
14. stifled  
15. stirred

A. from this place; away from here
B. wary; suspicious
C. person accompanying another to guide, protect, or honor
D. interrupted; repressed
E. a possible danger; a threat
F. changed position
G. showing signs of repressed anger or hatred
H. a device that makes larger or more powerful
I. sadly; regretfully
J. making a face expressive of disgust or pain
K. extreme dislike; scorn; disdain
L. dire; of great intensity
M. inspired with a mixture of respect and dread
N. behavior in correspondence with current styles
O. ran away suddenly
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 9

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Compare the greasers with Tim Shepard’s gang and the gang from Brumly.

   T. S.’s gang and the boys from Brumly were hardened criminals who usually carried weapons, well organized and had strict leaders; they would be future convicts. The greasers were friends, not really violent. No one was really the leader.

2. Why did Darry feel hatred for Paul Holden? How did Ponyboy react to that hatred?

   Darry and Paul were friends and football teammates in HS. Darry was jealous that Paul was in College. Pony wished they didn’t hate each other. He no longer hated the Socs. He began to realize there were good and bad in each group.

3. Who won the rumble? How was the winner determined?

   The greasers won because the Socs were the first to run away.

4. Just before he died, Johnny said, “Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold…” What did he mean?

   He was referring to Robert Frost’s poem. He wanted him to hold on to the enthusiasm of his youth.
Vocabulary
Chapter 10

For each sentence below, circle the most appropriate definition for the word in bold. Use your dictionary for help.

1. I was **bewildered** by the question.
   - encouraged
   - confused
   - enlightened

2. After falling, Peggy was in a **stupor**.
   - ditch
   - hospital
   - daze

3. Mark and Steve **stumbled** down the steep path.
   - skipped
   - climbed
   - tripped

4. Winning the contest was a **triumph** for Sue.
   - shock
   - victory
   - lesson

5. Pat was **delirious** with joy.
   - afraid
   - content
   - ecstatic

6. Because he wasn’t paying attention, Jim answered **vaguely**.
   - unclearly
   - certainly
   - generally

7. The flood left an **impact** on everyone.
   - residue
   - mudslide
   - effect

8. Because the day was **hazy**, we canceled the picnic.
   - humid
   - stormy
   - misty

Use any five of the vocabulary words above in sentences of your own.

*Answer will vary.*
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 10

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Ponyboy commented, “Johnny was dead. But he wasn’t.” Explain.

   Ponyboy had trouble accepting that Johnny was dead, so he tried to block the reality from his mind.

2. What did Ponyboy mean when he said, “It was only yesterday…but yesterday was years ago. A lifetime ago”?

   He was thinking about when Dally told him he was carrying an unloaded gun. So much had happened in the short period of time that it seemed as if a year had passed instead of a day.

3. Why did Dally want to be dead?

   He had lost the only person he really loved.

4. Why did Ponyboy want to know if he had asked for Darry while he was sick?

   Now that he realized how much Darry really cared for him, he probably was afraid that he might have hurt his feelings by not asking for him.
**Vocabulary**

Chapter 11

**PART ONE:**
Use your dictionary to define the following vocabulary words as they were used in the story.

1. cocky:  
2. bulletin:  
3. environment:  
4. foster:  
5. guardian:  
6. hot-tempered:  
7. idolized:  
8. liable:  
9. reckless:  
10. sophomore:  

**PART TWO:**
Hide the vocabulary words from Part One in a word search puzzle for your classmates to find.
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 11

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why did Ponyboy hope Bob’s parents hated him and the other greasers?
   He thought it was better to be hated than pitied.

2. Guess why Randy came to visit Ponyboy.
   Perhaps he wanted to reassure him that his testimony would show the judge that he wasn't to blame.

3. Why did Ponyboy try to assume responsibility for the stabbing death of Bob?
   Johnny’s death had left Ponyboy mentally and emotionally distressed. He was still having trouble accepting the fact that Johnny had died. He didn’t want to hear anything negative about Johnny.

4. What was significant about Darry calling Ponyboy “little buddy”?
   It was a term of endearment (affection) until now, Darry had only used it with Soda. Darry was able to show Ponyboy his feelings more openly.
Vocabulary
Chapter 12

PART ONE:
Think about how these words and phrases were used in this chapter. Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the first one.

1. absent-minded thoughtful concentrating preoccupied
2. acquitted cleared acquired invented
3. composition essay construction network
4. flinching categorizing analyzing wincing
5. hearing medical examination judicial procedure a testimonial
6. louse up bug bungle snare
7. reference source of information reverence reliance
8. scholarship foundation privacy financial aid
9. theme fashion style topic
10. towheaded stubborn pleasant blond
11. vacuum isolation random idle
12. vast huge empty hollow
13. veered leapt swerved dove

PART TWO:
Choose any four vocabulary words from above and supply an antonym for each.

preoccupied : indifferent
isolation : companionship
huge : insignificant
Comprehension and Discussion Questions
Chapter 12

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why was Two-Bit relieved when Ponyboy picked up the broken glass?

   Two-Bit was afraid that Ponyboy was trying to become tough and he knew that was not his true nature. When Ponyboy picked up the glass so that no one would get a flat tire, Two-Bit knew that he really had not changed.

2. Why did Soda bolt from the room when Ponyboy and Darry were arguing?

   Soda was upset because Sandy had refused to marry him and had returned his letter unopened. He was also upset about being put in the middle of his brothers' quarrels. When Pony tried to get him to take sides in this latest argument, Soda couldn’t take it anymore.

3. Soda’s heartfelt comments helped Ponyboy come to an important realization about his relationship with Darry. Explain.

   He realized that he had expected Darry to understand his feelings but he had never tried to see things from Darry’s point of view. He knew that Darry had given up a lot for Soda and him.

4. How did Johnny’s letter affect Ponyboy’s choice of a theme for his English paper?

   Ponyboy decided that the greasers’ story should be told so that people wouldn’t be so quick to judge them. He also hoped that by telling their story, it would give hope to boys like him by making them see there is good in the world.
Critical-Thinking Activity

What If?

If Johnny had not died, what future might he face? Would he have been convicted of murder, a lesser crime, or set free? Pretend that you are his attorney; describe the case you would present on his behalf. Which characters would you call as defense witnesses? What questions would you ask them? Write your ideas in the space below.
During the course of the story Ponyboy, the protagonist, changes and develops new feelings about many of the characters and about himself. Tell how he accomplishes this by using examples from the book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>End</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Darry</td>
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<td>2. Dally</td>
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<td>3. Johnny</td>
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<td>4. Himself</td>
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Spotlight Literary Skill

*Stereotyping*

A **stereotype** is a story character with exaggerated personality traits who falsely represents a group of people. Stereotypes exist in many types of literature, including fairy tales, folk tales, and legends. The innocent heroine and the wicked villain are both common stereotypes in books. The author of *The Outsiders* stereotyped some of her characters to make them stand out in the reader’s mind.

Read the list of characters below. Next to each name, write one or more personality traits that make the character seem stereotyped.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Personality Traits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>Cherry</td>
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<td>Ponyboy</td>
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<td>Johnny</td>
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<td>Two-Bit</td>
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<td>Randy</td>
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Cooperative-Learning Activity

Heroism

What is a hero? We often think of a hero as someone who has performed an unusual feat of bravery or skill; however, there are many other ways to describe a hero. With your cooperative learning group, discuss people you consider heroic. Brainstorm a list of characteristics that these people share. After you have finished, compare your list with those of other groups.

Throughout *The Outsiders* there are many examples of courageous acts. As a group, select four story characters who have shown bravery in some way and who should be awarded the heroes’ medals on this page. Fill in the heroes’ names, and tell why each deserves the award. Compare your awards during a class discussion period.

---

(Names of Heroes)

Reason for the Award

(Names of Heroes)

Reason for the Award

(Names of Heroes)

Reason for the Award

(Names of Heroes)

Reason for the Award

---

Answers will vary.
Cooperative-Learning Activity

Eulogy for a Friend

A eulogy is a speech or writing in praise of someone who died. In the story, Johnny, Dallas, and Bob died. Pretend that you and your cooperative-learning group members are friends of the deceased boys. Write three eulogies that describe your feelings about each boy. Discuss their qualities and explain why they were your friends. Use story events that reveal their character traits. When your group has completed the writing, choose group members to deliver the eulogies to the entire class. Compare your speeches with those of the other student groups. Brainstorm ideas in the spaces below.

Eulogy No. 1: ____________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Eulogy No. 2: ____________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

Eulogy No. 3: ____________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________
Spotlight Literary Skill

*Compare and Contrast*

When you compare things, you decide how they are alike. When you contrast things, you decide how they are different.

Think about your school experiences. Think about Ponyboy’s school experiences. List the ways in which they are alike and the ways in which they are different.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Likenesses</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>My School Experiences</td>
<td>Ponyboy’s School Experiences</td>
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<td>My School Experiences</td>
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Spotlight Literary Skill

Conflict

Characters in a story must deal with different problems or struggles. Many times this act of struggling is what makes the story interesting. In *The Outsiders*, find one example of each of the following types of struggles.

1. **Character versus Character**: A character in the story has a conflict with one or more other characters.

2. **Character versus Self**: A character must deal with a problem (physical or emotional) within himself or herself.

3. **Character versus Society**: A character must deal with a part of society that is a problem (family, friends, community, government, rules, etc.).

4. **Character versus Nature**: A character must deal with a problem created by a natural force.
Critical Thinking Activity

Be a Reporter

In Chapter 7 we were told of a newspaper article in which Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally were described as heroes. Their actions in the church fire were explained in the article. Pretend you are the reporter writing this article for your newspaper. Outline your article below. Write your complete version on another paper. Remember to think of a “catchy” headline.

Who: ____________________________________________________________

What: ____________________________________________________________

Where: __________________________________________________________

When: ____________________________________________________________

Why: _____________________________________________________________

How: _____________________________________________________________

Brainstorm a list of ideas for the headline of the article. Put a check (✔) next to your best idea.

---------------------------------------------

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Point of view is the voice that is used to tell the story plot. A first person narrator is the character who is telling the story. This character takes part in the story and refers to herself or himself as I. In *The Outsiders*, Ponyboy Curtis is the first person narrator; he is the storyteller.

What if the story were told from Cherry’s, Sodapop’s, or Johnny’s point of view? Think of a few story events and retell each from another point of view.

**Event: __________________________**

As seen from _______________’s point of view __________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

**Event: __________________________**

As seen from _______________’s point of view __________________________

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**Event: __________________________**

As seen from _______________’s point of view __________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

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_____________________________________________________________________
Post-Reading Activity

Write an Epilogue

An epilogue is a short concluding section at the end of a literary work. Usually it deals with the future of the characters.

Think about the following questions: Does Ponyboy have any other misadventures? Does he take his big brother’s advice and attend college? Do the greasers and the Socs resolve their differences, or do new problems divide the groups? Detail your ideas in a well-written epilogue.
Crossword Puzzle

The Outsiders

See how much you remember about The Outsiders. Have fun!

ACROSS
1. Bob’s friend; he testified at Ponyboy’s hearing.
6. State in which story is set.
7. Characteristic of 31 Across. (2 words)
10. Johnny and Ponyboy rescued the children from this.
11. Nickname of Ponyboy’s oldest brother.
12. Author of The Outsiders.
14. Last name of 3 Down, 11 Across, and 28 Across.
17. City in which story is set.
19. What Dallas did to the grocery store just before he was killed.
20. Sandy’s answer to Soda’s marriage proposal.
21. 14 Down was one.
22. Johnny told Pony to stay ______.
27. What Jerry Wood was.
28. Ponyboy’s older brother who worked at a gas station.
30. Ponyboy and Cherry enjoyed looking at this.
31. They often dressed in blue jeans and T-shirts.

DOWN
1. Compared to the greasers, the Socs were ______.
2. Greaser who shoplifts.
3. First-person narrator of The Outsiders.
4. Ponyboy quoted his poem.
5. Soda’s horse.
8. He killed a Soc.
14. She spied for the greasers.
15. A fight between gangs.
16. Type of shirt often worn by Socs.
18. Most violent greaser.
21. Ponyboy and Johnny hid in an abandoned one.
23. Side of town the Socs came from.
24. According to the newspaper article, Ponyboy and Johnny were ______.
25. Side of town the greasers came from.
26. What Johnny asked the nurse to give to Ponyboy before he died.
29. Dallas called it a “heater.”
Glossary of Literary Terms

Alliteration: Repetition of initial (beginning) sounds in 2 or more consecutive or neighboring words.

Analogy: A comparison based upon the resemblance in some particular ways between things that are otherwise unlike.

Anecdote: A short account of an interesting, amusing, or biographical occurrence.

Anticlimax: An event that is less important than what occurred before it.

Archaic language: Language that was once common in a particular historic period but which is no longer commonly used.

Cause and effect: The relationship in which one condition brings about another condition as a direct result. The result, or consequence, is called the effect.

Character development: The ways in which the author shows how a character changes as the story proceeds.

Characterization: The method used by the author to give readers information about a character; a description or representation of a person’s qualities or peculiarities.

Classify: To arrange according to a category or trait.

Climax: The moment when the action in a story reaches its greatest conflict.

Compare and contrast: To examine the likenesses and differences of two people, ideas, or things. (Contrast emphasizes differences. Compare may focus on likenesses alone or on likenesses and differences.)

Conflict: The main source of drama and tension in a literary work; the discord between persons or forces that brings about dramatic action.

Connotation: Something suggested or implied, not actually stated.

Description: An account that gives the reader a mental image or picture of something.

Dialect: A form of language used in a certain geographic region; it is distinguished from the standard form of the language by pronunciation, grammar, and/or vocabulary.

Dialogue (dialog): The parts of a literary work that represent conversation.

Fact: A piece of information that can be proven or verified.

Figurative language: Description of one thing in terms usually used for something else. Simile and metaphor are examples of figurative language.

Flashback: The insertion of an earlier event into the normal chronological sequence of a narrative.

Foreshadowing: The use of clues to give readers a hint of events that will occur later on.

Historical fiction: Fiction represented in a setting true to the history of the time in which the story takes place.

Imagery: Language that appeals to the senses; the use of figures of speech or vivid descriptions to produce mental images.
Irony: The use of words to express the opposite of their literal meaning.

Legend: A story handed down from earlier times; its truth is popularly accepted but can’t be verified.

Limerick: Humorous 5-lined poem with form aabba. Lines 1, 2 and 5 are longer than lines 3 and 4.

Metaphor: A figure of speech that compares two unlike things without the use of “like” or “as.”

Mood: The feeling that the author creates for the reader.

Motivation: The reasons for the behavior of a character.

Narrative: The type of writing that tells a story.

Narrator: The character who tells the story.

Opinion: A personal point of view or belief.

Parody: Writing that ridicules or imitates something more serious.

Personification: Figure of speech in which an inanimate object or an abstract idea is given human characteristics.

Play: A literary work written in dialogue form and usually performed before an audience.

Plot: The arrangement or sequence of events in a story.

Point of view: The perspective from which a story is told.

Protagonist: The main character.

Pun: A play on words that are similar in sound but different in meaning.

Realistic fiction: True-to-life fiction; people, places, and happenings are similar to those in real life.

Resolution: Part of the plot (from climax on) where the main dramatic conflict is worked out.

Satire: A literary work that pokes fun at individual or societal weaknesses.

Sequencing: The placement of story elements in the order of their occurrence.

Setting: The time and place in which the story occurs.

Simile: A figure of speech that uses “like” or “as” to compare two unlike things.

Stereotype: A character whose personality traits represent a group rather than an individual.

Suspense: Quality that causes readers to wonder what will happen next.

Symbolism: The use of a thing, character, object, or idea to represent something else.

Synonyms: Words that are very similar in meaning.

Tall tale: An exaggerated story detailing unbelievable events.

Theme: The main idea of a literary work; the message the author wants to communicate, sometimes expressed as a generalization about life.

Tone: The quality or feeling conveyed by the work; the author’s style or manner of expression.