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?

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

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

4. Why is Oklahoma called the Sooner State?
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   A. shame; loss of honor
___ 2. automatically   B. shaking, as from fear or sickness
___ 3. conscious   C. right away; immediately
___ 4. disgrace   D. aware
___ 5. drowsily   E. for this reason
___ 6. fierce   F. a type of cotton cloth of fine texture
___ 7. gingerly   G. uncommon items
___ 8. hence   H. competition
___ 9. instantly   I. fond or tender feelings toward another
___ 10. madras   J. to keep from breathing
___ 11. rarities   K. sleepily
___ 12. rivalry   L. not understood
___ 13. suffocate   M. moving or acting by itself; done without conscious control
___ 14. tight-knit   N. ferocious; raging
___ 15. trembling   O. with extreme caution
___ 16. unfathomable   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.

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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.

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2. Compare and contrast the Socs and the greasers.

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__________________________________________________________________________
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3. Why did the greasers resent the Socs?

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4. Explain the reason for the tension between Ponyboy and Darry. Give your opinion.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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5. The author used a metaphor to describe Johnny Cade. Explain.

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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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>concession</td>
<td>sarcastic</td>
<td>muffled</td>
<td>reforms</td>
<td>digesting</td>
<td>feud</td>
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<tr>
<td>embarrassed</td>
<td>hoodlum</td>
<td>gasp</td>
<td>site</td>
<td>ligaments</td>
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</table>

1. The ___________ wind scattered the leaves around the garden.

2. Samantha ___________ cleaned up the mess; she didn’t have much time because her parents were due home any minute.

3. The baby had trouble ___________ the new food.

4. Ryan stopped at the ___________ stand to buy a snack.

5. He acted like a ___________ when he ran away from the bully.

6. The runner was ___________ to start the race and began too soon.

7. Cara often acted in a disobedient, ___________ manner.

8. The new school committee made many ___________ that will benefit the school.

9. The greasers and the Socs had a ___________ that led to violence.

10. Tom injured the ___________ in his foot during the basketball game.

11. During the long car ride, the children ___________ 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 ___________.

13. Dan seemed a bit ___________ when he came in last in the relay race.

14. The vacant lot was chosen as the ___________ for the new community center.

15. A classmate’s ___________ comment hurt her feelings.

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

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

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

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

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

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   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________

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

   ___________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________
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   ___________________________________________________________
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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. aloof</td>
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<td>2. bleak</td>
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<td>3. cunning</td>
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<td>4. elite</td>
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<td>5. emotional</td>
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<td>6. frustration</td>
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<td>7. grimly</td>
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<td>8. impersonal</td>
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<td>9. ornery</td>
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<td>10. passionate</td>
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<td>11. pity</td>
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<td>12. quivering</td>
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<td>13. resigned</td>
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<td>14. sassy</td>
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<td>15. sophisticated</td>
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</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.
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?

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?

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?

4. The author used foreshadowing with the cliffhanger at the end of the chapter. Explain. Predict what might happen later in the story.
Vocabulary
Chapter 4

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.


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


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


4. Ponyboy had always dreamed of going to the country. What was his reaction when he finally arrived there?
Vocabulary
Chapter 5

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

1. **blurted** exclaimeda 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

[a]a
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: ____________________________________________________________

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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!
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?

2. Describe how Johnny and Ponyboy acted heroically. Why didn’t they take Dally’s advice?

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?

4. What made Ponyboy realize at last that Darry loved him? Explain what he meant by “I was finally home to stay.”
Vocabulary
Chapter 7

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aghast</th>
<th>appeal</th>
<th>bum</th>
<th>critical</th>
<th>daze</th>
<th>exploits</th>
<th>gleefully</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>half-heartedly</td>
<td>juvenile delinquent</td>
<td>manslaughter</td>
<td>mimicking</td>
<td>mourning</td>
<td>palomino</td>
<td>radiates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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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?

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.

3. According to Randy, what did most of the Socs want from their parents?

4. Why did Randy decide not to participate in the rumble?
# Vocabulary

## Chapter 8

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>VOCABULARY WORD</th>
<th>SYNONYM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. abruptly</td>
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<td>2. alarmed</td>
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<td>3. ashamed</td>
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<td>4. casual</td>
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<td>5. debate</td>
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<td>6. divert</td>
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<td>7. faltered</td>
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<td>8. mere</td>
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<td>9. reluctantly</td>
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<td>10. scarce</td>
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<td>11. showpiece</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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____________________________________________________________________
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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?

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

3. Judge the following statement: “The only thing that keeps Darry from bein’ a Soc is us.”

4. What qualities did Cherry admire both in Bob and in Dally?
Vocabulary
Chapter 9

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

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>1. amplifier</td>
<td>A. from this place; away from here</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>2. awed</td>
<td>B. wary; suspicious</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>3. bolted</td>
<td>C. person accompanying another to guide, protect, or honor</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>4. conformity</td>
<td>D. interrupted; repressed</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>5. contempt</td>
<td>E. a possible danger; a threat</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>6. escort</td>
<td>F. changed position</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>7. grimacing</td>
<td>G. showing signs of repressed anger or hatred</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>8. hence</td>
<td>H. a device that makes larger or more powerful</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>9. leery</td>
<td>I. sadly; regretfully</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>10. menace</td>
<td>J. making a face expressive of disgust or pain</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>11. mortal</td>
<td>K. extreme dislike; scorn; disdain</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>12. ruefully</td>
<td>L. dire; of great intensity</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>13. smoldering</td>
<td>M. inspired with a mixture of respect and dread</td>
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<tr>
<td>___</td>
<td>14. stifled</td>
<td>N. behavior in correspondence with current styles</td>
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<td>___</td>
<td>15. stirred</td>
<td>O. ran away suddenly</td>
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</table>
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.  

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

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

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

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.
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.

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

3. Why did Dally want to be dead?

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

2. Guess why Randy came to visit Ponyboy.

3. Why did Ponyboy try to assume responsibility for the stabbing death of Bob?

4. What was significant about Darry calling Ponyboy “little buddy”?
**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.

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________
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?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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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.

________________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________________
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.

### Character Charting

<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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<tr>
<td>2. Dally</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Johnny</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Himself</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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.

Dallas ____________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Cherry __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Ponyboy _________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Johnny _________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Two-Bit _________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Randy _________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________
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.

(Name of Hero)

Reason for the Award

(Name of Hero)

Reason for the Award

(Name of Hero)

Reason for the Award

(Name of Hero)

Reason for the Award
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: 

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**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.

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

Point of View

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

Event: __________________________________________________

As seen from____________________ ’s point of view
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.

**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.
Notes