

EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - *The Outsiders*

Interpretation

1. Where is the climax of the story?
2. The members of Pony's gang are all individuals. Give character sketches of Ponyboy, Johnny, Soda, Darry, Dallas, Two-Bit and Steve.
3. Explain the importance of the setting in *The Outsiders*.
4. In what ways does Ms. Hinton attempt to make the story believable? Is he successful?
5. What is the difference between a "hood" and a "greaser"?
6. Why do Greasers and Socs fight?
7. Discuss the importance of the fire in the development of the theme. (Suppose there had been no fire. How would the book have changed?)
8. At what times and how were the barriers between Greasers and Socs broken?

Critical

9. Ponyboy's perception of Darry changes in the course of the story. Explain how.
10. Compare and contrast Dally and Bob.
11. Explain how the title of the book is appropriate.
12. What is the symbolic importance of each of the following: Dally's jacket, the church, Pony's haircut, sunset, sunrise, and Pepsi-Cola.
13. Evaluate S. E. Hinton's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the novel?
14. Explain the meaning of Frost's poem as it relates to *The Outsiders*.
15. How does *Gone With the Wind* relate to *The Outsiders*?
16. Pony passes through several stages in the book. Define the stages he passes through as his character develops. Use examples from the text.
17. What faults in our society does S. E. Hinton point out in *The Outsiders*?
18. Compare and contrast the boys who died: Bob, Dally and Johnny.
19. Compare and contrast the circumstances of the boys' deaths and explain the significance.
20. Compare and contrast Johnny and Ponyboy.
21. Is Ponyboy still "gold" at the end of the story? Explain your answer.
22. Was Dally a hood or a greaser?
23. Is *The Outsiders* a tragedy? If so, how? If not, why not?

Critical/Personal Response

24. If you were to rewrite *The Outsiders* as a play, where would you start and end each act?
25. Choose another title for the book and explain your choice.
26. Cherry felt that the whole mess was her fault. Was it?

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27. Who is responsible for Bob's death? Johnny's? Dally's?
28. Suppose the story had ended in the parking lot at the grocery store, with Ponyboy's repeating Dally's words, ". . . Get smart and nothing can touch you. . . ." How would that have changed the message of the book?
29. What were we supposed to learn from reading *The Outsiders*?

Personal Response

30. Did you enjoy reading *The Outsiders*? Why or why not?
31. Define "hero."
32. Define "gallant."
33. Did the fact that Bob and his friends were drunk excuse their behavior?