



River Dell Middle School: 8th Grade Summer Reading

The Outsiders

By **S. E. Hinton**



"I could picture hundreds and hundreds of boys living on the wrong sides of cities, boys with black eyes who jumped at their own shadows. Hundreds of boys who maybe watched sunsets and looked at stars and ached for something better. I could see boys going down under street lights because they were mean and tough and hated the world, and it was too late to tell them that there was still good in it, and they wouldn't believe you if you did. It was too vast a problem to be just a personal thing. There should be some help, someone should tell them before it was too late. Someone should tell their side of the story, and maybe people would understand then and wouldn't be so quick to judge a boy by the amount of hair oil he wore. It was important to me" (Hinton 179).

Before the start of school, please read S.E. Hinton's debut novel, *The Outsiders*. We will be reading another one of Hinton's novels, *That Was Then, This Is Now*, in September. There are several crossover characters and the setting is the same, so *The Outsiders* will provide you with some helpful background information. If you have previously read this book, you must *re-read* it and complete the reading activities.

While you read, be sure to complete the **Character Chart**

We have also included a glossary for you (Pages 4-5). Since *The Outsiders* was published in 1967, the language reflects the time period. As you read, use the glossary to understand allusions (references), dialect (slang), and some challenging vocabulary words.

Be prepared for an assessment on your summer reading upon your return to school. You should use the resources (character chart and glossary) to prepare.

Lastly, although this is your only *mandatory* summer reading assignment, we strongly encourage you to read at least one other novel of your choice. Go to your local library, select a book *you* think looks interesting, and enjoy!

Have a wonderful summer, and we are looking forward to an engaging and enriching year with you!

Character Chart

Character	Physical Description	Character Traits Description
Ponyboy		
Soda		
Darry		
Johnny Cade		
Steve Randall		

Two Bit (Keith)		
Character	Physical Description	Personality Description
Dallas Winston, Dally		
Cherry Valance		
Buck Merril		
Tim Shepard		
Robert Sheldon (Bob)		

Other		
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Glossary: Dialect, Allusions, and Vocabulary

Feel free to use this as a reference as you read. The terms are in alphabetical order with page number in parenthesis.

A smoke (12)	A cigarette
A'woofin' (53)	No kidding
Agony (148)	Extreme physical or mental suffering
Aloofness (38)	Not friendly; cool and distance
Barrel race (22)	A rodeo event (particularly for women) in which each competitor rides their horse in a set pattern around three barrels.
Beer blasts (3)	Large parties where beer is consumed
Bootlegging (58)	Making or selling illegal goods (especially liquor)
Bopper (140)	Rumbler, meaning fighter
Buckskin (39)	A horse of a grayish-yellow color
Cancer stick (80)	cigarette
Contempt (142)	A feeling that something is worthless; disrespect
Contemptuously (59)	Disdainfully, disrespectfully, mockingly
Corn-pone (65)	Unsophisticated, very "country"
Corvair (4)	A Chevrolet car that was manufactured from 1960-1969
Doggedly (127)	Persistently
Drive-in (19)	An establishment, like a restaurant or movie theater, that you can visit without leaving your car
English Leather (54)	Men's cologne
Fixed races (58)	Races where action was taken to make sure that one horse would be a winner and the other horses would lose
For kicks (3)	Just because, or just for fun
Fuzz (20)	Police
Gallant (76)	Brave, heroic
Get jumped (2)	To be suddenly attacked
Gone with the Wind (75)	A novel by Margaret Mitchell, published in 1936. The story is set in Georgia during the Civil War and Reconstruction Era and depicts the struggles of Scarlett O'Hara who claws her way out of poverty.
Greaser (1, 2)	A term used to describe any of the boys from the East Side
Hank Williams (58)	A famous country music singer
Heater (83)	Gun, pistol
Hunt some action (13)	To look for girls or a fight
Icebox (104)	Refrigerator

Imploringly (72)	Begging someone earnestly and desperately to do something
Incredulous (24)	Unwilling or unable to believe something
Indignant (80)	Feeling or showing anger or annoyance at something unfair
Jack London's book (143)	The novel <i>White Fang</i> is told from the perspective of a wolf and examines the violent world of wild animals <i>and</i> the violent world of humans.
JD (138)	Short for Juvenile Delinquent
Jet set (2)	Wealthy and fashionable
Jockeys (21)	Someone who rides horses
Juiced up (122)	Excited
Kools (19)	Brand of cigarette
Lift (as in "lift a hubcap") (9)	To steal
Lynx (10)	A kind of wild cat
Madras (5)	Cotton fabric that is usually pattered with colorful stripes or checks (considered "preppy")
Nonchalantly (25)	In a casually calm and relaxed manner
Ornery (39)	Bad-tempered, grumpy
Paul Newman (1)	A handsome actor who was famous for starring in westerns
Perry Mason (167)	A TV show from the 1960s that featured a lawyer by the same name
Pop bottle (4)	Soda bottle
Premonition (67)	An advanced warning, the feeling that something bad is going to happen
Reader's Digest (132)	A family magazine founded in 1920 that is still in print today; readers can send in their jokes and they may be selected to be published in the magazine.
Reeling pickled (54)	Staggering drunk
Reluctantly (126)	Unwillingly, hesitantly
Ruefully (139)	Regretfully or sorrowfully, but in a humorous way
Rumble (11)	Street fight
Savvy (17)	To understand, to get the idea
Shifty-eyed (59)	Having the appearance of being dishonest, usually lack of eye contact
Smoldering (55)	Seething, barely suppressed anger, hatred or other powerful emotion
Soc (2)	Short for "socials", the term is used to describe any of the rich kids from the West Side
Souped-up (3)	Improved capacity for speed or efficiency
Soused (46)	drunk
Stupor (150)	A daze, a state of near-unconsciousness
Taut (142)	Stretched or pulled tight
Towheaded (59)	Having a head of very blond, almost white hair
Tuff (12)	Cool, sharp (a compliment)