

Wilson Avenue School

Summer Reading Assignment

Students Entering 8th Grade



Required Book: **The Outsiders** by S.E. Hinton

Required Assignments:

* After reading **The Outsiders** , complete the **two** assignments below:

**I.Comprehension Questions** – Complete the questions below. Be sure to answer using complete sentences. Cite evidence from the text to support your responses. Please write or type the answers on a separate sheet of paper neatly.

1. Who are the Socs? Who are the Greasers? What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the Greasers?
2. How do Ponyboy‟s relationships with Darry and Sodapop differ? Explain.
3. Why is the “gang‟ important to Johnny?
4. What major event happens in chapter 4?
5. Who does Johnny think is a hero [p.76]? Do you think Dally is a hero based on what he did?
6. What is your own definition of a hero? Do the three boys prove themselves to be heroes, according to your definition? Explain
7. Why did Pony think it was better to see Socs as “just guys” on p.118? What do you think he means by this?
8. “We needed Johnny as much as he needed the gang. And for the same reason” (p.121). What do you think Pony means, and what is the reason?
9. What is the difference between Tim Sheppard‟s gang and Ponyboy‟s? Explain how Pony feels this difference give his group the upper hand?
10. Why does Randy come to visit Pony, beyond the obvious? What did Randy discover in his conversation with Pony?
11. What do we learn was so special about Johnny (p,178)?
12. What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?

II. **Explanatory Essay** – Essays are to be typed or written neatly on loose-leaf paper in order to receive full credit. Remember to use quotes from the book as support for your ideas, and to cite the page numbers. Use the writing frame to help guide your writing.

Writing Prompt:

Write an essay explaining why you believe each of the Greasers - Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally - could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each character, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples.

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| Explanatory Essay Framework |
| 1. Introduction Paragraph  * Engaging beginning (Hook) * Transition from the engaging beginning to the thesis (main idea) * Thesis statement (your definition of hero) |
| 1. Body Paragraph (How is Ponyboy a hero?)  * Topic Sentence Statement (Main Idea Statement) * Support sentence * Facts/details * Elaboration/example * Details/closure/transition |
| 1. Body Paragraph (How is Johnny a hero?)  * Topic Sentence Statement (Main Idea Statement) * Support sentence * Facts/details * Elaboration/example * Details/closure/transition |
| 1. Body Paragraph (How is Dally a hero?)  * Topic Sentence Statement (Main Idea Statement) * Support sentence * Facts/details * Elaboration/example * Details/closure/transition |
| 1. Closing Paragraph  * Restate Thesis or Topic Sentences * Restate main details * Leave the reader with a powerful concluding thought |