

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

The Outsiders

by S. E. Hinton

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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, students will be able to

1. write an essay which explains and supports the following statement: *The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton, is a good example of a coming-of-age novel.
2. identify and discuss the following themes in this novel and cite comments and incidents in the novel for support:
 - A. People need to relate closely to other people; otherwise, they become hard and dried-up inside.
 - B. When parental love and approval are not present, the approval of friends and gang members can be a substitute, but never a completely satisfactory substitute.
 - C. Peer pressure for conformity can weaken an individual's sensitivity and sense of individuality.
 - D. Judging people by their appearances is foolish and makes people seem like stereotypes, rather than individuals.
 - E. Human worth cannot be measured by cars, clothes, or social class standing. Every person is unique; that is, all people share a common humanity, but each one has qualities that set him or her apart.
 - F. Violence does not solve problems and differences. In fact, it may only lead to more violence.
 - G. In life as we grow older, we should try to hang on to our innocence and to our sense of wonder and freshness, rather than letting ourselves become bored with life.
 - H. In life, it is important to have emotions, but not feel them so strongly that they lead to violence.
3. define the following terms and give examples from the novel to support the definitions:
 - A. Stereotype
 - B. Foreshadowing
 - C. Metaphor
 - D. Allusion
 - E. Flashback
 - F. Narrator

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Here are some ideas presented in the novel that the author appears to believe are true. Which of these, from your experience, do you believe to be true?
 - A. When parental love and approval is absent, the approval of friends may be a substitute, but never a wholly satisfactory substitute.
 - B. People who do not love and relate to other people dry up inside and become bitter and mean.
 - C. Peer pressure from your group can force you to be someone you do not want to be.
 - D. Many people do make judgments about people based on stereotypes that exist in their minds.
 - E. Every human being is unique but also a part of humanity; therefore, every human being should be respected and given consideration.
 - F. Violence does not solve problems and may only lead to making problems worse.
 - G. People, as they grow older, may lose their sense of wonder and become bored and emotionless people if they are not careful.
 - H. While it is important to feel things, we must restrain ourselves so that we do not feel them too violently.
2. Explain why this novel is a good example of the Coming-of-Age theme. Support your answer by referring to comments and incidents from the novel.
3. Define the following terms and give examples from the novel:
 - A. Flashback
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. Allusion
 - D. Symbol
 - E. Narrator
 - F. Dynamic character
 - G. static character
 - H. Point of View
4. Write a short essay in which you explain how foreshadowing is used in this novel to build interest and suspense.
5. Explain how in this novel both the Socs and the greasers are guilty of stereotyping.
6. Be prepared to write a one-half page description of each of the major characters in the novel.
7. List the major incidents in the plot of this novel and identify those incidents that are part of the *Exposition*, those that constitute *Rising Action*, the incident that is the *Climax*, those that are part of the *Falling Action*, and the one which is the *Resolution*.

The Outsiders

Chapter One

VOCABULARY

asset – a positive
smarting – feeling pain

1. Who is the narrator in this story? Describe him.

2. Who are the Socs? Who are the greasers?

3. Identify the following characters: Darryl, Sodapop, Steve Randall, Dallas Winston, and Johnny.

4. How did Two-Bit Mathews get his name? What type of stealing is his specialty?

Chapter Four

VOCABULARY

contemptuously - scornfully
rueful - full of sorrow, shame
premonition - a feeling that something is going to happen

1. Why does Johnny take the action he does? What does he do? Why?

2. What does Ponyboy conclude Cherry must have seen in Dallas?

3. What do the boys receive from Dally at the party?

4. What is it that Ponyboy now thinks is worse than being a greaser?

Chapter Nine

VOCABULARY

contracted - tensed muscles
agony - great pain
bolted - run off

1. Sometimes Ponyboy seems ashamed to be a greaser; sometimes he seems proud to be one. How is he feeling about this in this Chapter?

2. Why is Darryl, who is older, brighter and more clean cut than most of the others, getting in this fight?

3. Why does Ponyboy think that he, Darryl, and the others do not really belong with the Brumley boys and Tim Shepard's gang?
