

***The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton (Published by Puffin)**

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 8

Summary

The Outsiders is about two gangs, the “Greasers” (from the wrong side of town) and the “Socs” (from the wealthier part of town). They exhibit gang mentality which ends in violence, but there are stronger themes of friendship and judging others that run throughout the book.

Connection to the Curriculum

Hinton’s characters in *The Outsiders* represent different backgrounds, cultures, and adolescent personalities. The reader can see how gangs and violence affect so many lives. As a result, through the characters and plot, the reader is encouraged to examine positive resolutions to his/her own conflicts in everyday life. Students can examine not only the elements of a novel but also timely topics in *The Outsiders*.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.14- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.15- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and analyzes how major characters are developed (through their thoughts, words, speech patterns, actions) and how they change over time.

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and analyzes connections between the setting and other story elements (e.g., character, plot).

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author’s ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

A Note on the Text

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This text discusses the life of gangs and, therefore, includes mild violence and expletives associated with their activities.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities