

"the outsiders" by s.e.  
hinton



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

The Outsiders is a novel written by S. E. Hinton. Hinton wrote this story for many reasons and has won many awards for it.

This novel has affected the readers greatly. It is told from the view of a young boy named Ponyboy Curtis. It follows the troubles of him and his best friend Johnny Cade. Ponyboy lives in the poor neighborhood of their town with his two brothers. They are known as greasers. On the other side of town are the Socials or Socs. They are the rich kids. These two groups do not get along well and when a fight begins, Ponyboy and Johnny get in a lot of trouble with the Socs. They are forced to leave their town and run away. The readers learn from all the challenges they face living on their own. With that said, this coming of age novel truly shows the value of friendship, the trials and tribulations of finding yourself, and the conflicts between social classes.

The author of The Outsiders, S. E. Hinton was born in 1950 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her full name was Susan Eloise Hinton. As a child she loved to read and write. However, when she was a teen she couldn't find any books that she was interested in. In an interview Hinton said, 'I'd wanted to read books that showed teen-angers outside the life of 'Mary Jane went to the prom'. When I couldn't find any, I decided to write one myself. (Hinton and Ehrichs) She then created her own story about teens that was more realistic and exciting. Hinton wrote two novels and finally came up with the idea to make The Outsiders. She began writing this story at just sixteen years old and got the inspiration for her characters from real events that happened in her high school years. In fact, she believed that Ponyboy reflected her the most. She also wanted to write this story to create a different world where there were no adult figures to rule over the kids. This novel was worked on

for a year and a half and had four rewrites. After all of this she let her friend's mother read it. The mother loved the book and referred her to an agent named Marilyn Marlow of the Curtis Brown Agency. During her graduation ceremony, Hinton received a contract offering publication. The Outsiders was then published in 1967. Hinton was only 17 at the time. The novel won several awards and was critically acclaimed. Since the book was such a success, Hinton was able to go to the University of Tulsa. Here she earned a B. S in Education in 1970 and met her husband, David Inhofe. He encouraged her to write her second novel. Over the next ten years, she published a new novel every four years. Writing kept Hinton busy, but when she wasn't writing she was tending to her son, Nicholas David. She still writes to this day and has remained in Tulsa. Hinton is best known for her choice of characters, Her characters are frequently larger than life, almost mythic, and are social outcasts (Chaston). One of her biggest achievements was winning the Margaret Edwards Young Adult Author Achievement Award in 1988 from the American Library Association. The Outsiders really started her career and it has helped her grow.

This novel is told from the perspective of 14 year old Ponyboy Curtis.

Ponyboy lives in the poorer side of town and is part of a group known as the Greasers. The kids on the other side of town are wealthy and social. They're known as the Socs. The Socs and the Greasers are not big fans of each other. Once, Ponyboy's best friend Johnny Cade was brutally injured in a fight with a Soc. Ponyboy and Johnny go to the movies with some of their friends, including a boy named Dallas Winston. After the movie, Johnny and Ponyboy get into a quarrel with a group of drunk Soc boys. When Johnny accidentally

kills one of them, trouble strikes. Ponyboy and Johnny run away with the help of Dallas. They move into an abandoned church and must now fend for themselves. One day Dallas stops by the church and takes the boys out for lunch. When they come back they see that the church is up in flames and there are some kids inside. Ponyboy and Johnny rescue the kids, but Johnny is extremely injured and taken to the hospital. When the boys visit Johnny in the hospital they realize he is dying. Meanwhile, there is to be a rumble between the Socs and the Greasers. The boys fight and afterwards Dally takes Pony to see Johnny in the hospital. Johnny dies and Dally is in distress. The one thing he loved is now gone. Out of anger he robs a store and when the police find him, he is shot. After recovering Ponyboy begins to write his English essay. He bases it around the events that have happened and decides he wants it to spread the message that there is good and the world and it is possible to stay good.

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