

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Outsiders  
Web Quest

Today you are going to be learning more about the author and the setting of The Outsiders. Follow the directions on this packet and answer the subsequent questions as completely as you can. To open a site simply place your mouse over the address; hold the control button down and left click the mouse.

**A. S.E. Hinton**

<http://www.sehinton.com/>

Read the information about S.E. Hinton starting with the Biography.

1. Where was Hinton born? \_\_\_\_\_  
Coincidentally, this is assumedly where the novel takes place.
2. What influenced her to write The Outsiders?
3. What year was The Outsiders published? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to Hinton as a result of The Outsiders' popularity?
5. What is the title of her second novel? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When was the movie of The Outsiders released? \_\_\_\_\_  
Given the year the movie was released, how do you expect it to differ from if it were released in the year 2008?

You can skip the 'Books' section and next go to the 'Movies'.

7. Look at the cast list for The Outsiders movie. Which actor's names do you recognize?

Next go to the 'Misc.' section and answer the following questions.

8. Why does S.E. Hinton use a pseudonym (look it up if you don't know what it is)? Do you agree with her reasoning? Why/why not?
9. Where did she get the idea for The Outsiders?
10. State two other interesting pieces of information that you read in this section.

**B. More on S.E. Hinton**

Here's a little more information about Hinton. Read it and answer the following questions.

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/schoollibrary/hinton.htm>

1. What kind of writer does Hinton say she is? What does she mean by that?
2. How does Hinton explain why she always writes from a male's point of view?
3. Why does she usually write about teenagers?

**C. Paul Newman - The Celebrity**

Paul Newman is a movie star who is mentioned at the beginning of the novel. Although he might seem inconsequential, he helps put the time period into perspective. View the web-site dedicated to Paul Newman and answer the relating questions.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000056/bio>

1. Have you ever heard of Paul Newman before? If yes, where/when?
2. What were some of the Paul Newman films that Ponyboy may have seen (considering when the novel was published)?
3. What is Paul Newman currently mostly known for?
4. Where does he live now?
5. Click on the 'photos' icon in the upper left. Locate and view some of the photographs from Newman's younger years. Why might Ponyboy have idolized him?
6. If you were an author of a modern day novel, what famous actor would have your main character idolize? In other words, what actor do you think epitomizes (perfectly represents) American movie stars today?

**D. Elvis Presley**

Elvis Presley was another person who the “outsiders” idolized. In fact, one would say that they based their ‘style’ on this very famous man. Read over the information about “The King” and answer the questions that follow.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis\\_Presley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley)

1. What is Elvis Presley also known as? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who would you give this title to now and why?
  
2. Provide 2 to 3 other interesting facts about Elvis Presley.

**E. A Look at Oklahoma**

Oklahoma is the state in which all of S.E. Hinton's novels are set. Please gather five interesting facts about the state.

<http://www.otrd.state.ok.us/StudentGuide/default.html>

1. Facts:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  
2. Now that you know a little bit about Oklahoma, how do you think that influences the events in the novel? How might the story be different if it were taking place here in Simsbury, CT?

**F. TV in the '50's**

Even though the book was published in the mid-sixties, the main characters of the novel would have grown up mostly during the fifties and early sixties.

Check out the following site to get a feel for what life was like back then. Be sure to answer the questions that follow.

<http://www.kidsnewsroom.org/elmer/infoCentral/frameset/decade/1950.htm>

1. What were some of the popular things (television shows, people, toys, etc) in the fifties?
2. What do you think some of the major differences are between growing up in the fifties and growing up in the two-thousands (is that a word?)

**G. The Beatles**

The Beatles were the socs' idols. Spend some time looking at the following site. View a sampling of their videos/songs. You can check out some of Ms. Reese's favorites (the list that follows) or just choose some titles that you recognize. You do not have to look at them all, perhaps six or seven would be sufficient. Before viewing the video clips be sure to plug your headphones in properly!

All My Loving, All You Need is Love, Back in the USSR, Blackbird, Can't Buy Me Love, Don't Let me Down, Eight Days a Week, Get Back, Help, I'm Losing You, In My Life, Octopus' Garden, She Loves You, We Can Work it Out

<http://www.beatlestube.net/>

1. What do you think attracted the Socs to The Beatles?
2. What do you think the differing musical tastes of the Greasers and the Socs' says about their gangs?

Bonus: Name the four Beatles.

