

Sample Book Report on the Outsiders

The Outsiders is a novel that primarily focuses on the plight of several young juvenile delinquents, although it equally delves into themes such as self-identity and loss. It was written by S.E Hinton when she was 16 years old, primarily to entertain her classmates during their lunch breaks. Many school students have been assigned book reports on this particular novel; we can help you with yours!

First published in 1967, the story follows the lives and times of Ponyboy Curtis and his brothers, Sodapop and Darry, who were orphaned at an early age and placed in different homes after their parents' death (Soda's biological parents died in a car crash; Darry's father "drank himself to death" while his mother was in a mental hospital).

When the novel begins, Ponyboy is being beaten by three bullies from a rival school.

Fortunately, two of his friends show up to help him fight back and he manages to escape without too much physical damage done to him. When they return home, their older brother Darry becomes enraged at them for fighting again and punishes Soda by grounding him. Although Ponyboy is able to convince his big brother that it's not entirely their fault that this keeps happening because they are constantly picked on by these gang members, Darry remains displeased.

The next day everything escalates when one of the Socs (a rich boy who belongs to the green-and-white gang) assaults Ponyboy. He is rescued by Cherry, a Soc girl who he previously befriended; she drives him home in her parents' car. Although Soda and Darry are concerned about their younger brother's injuries, they are even more distressed when Ponyboy tells them that the next day at school will be another war between the Greasers (the poor boys who have to

work for everything while living in the "wrong" side of town) and the Socs. Everyone knows what this means: violence.

Ponyboy spends much of his time thinking about where he fits in with society, mainly because of self-identity issues resulting from being mixed race. His mother is Native American while his father was White; due to constant ridicule from the majority of the town's people, his parents never stayed in one place for too long and so he had a very unstable upbringing. When he first began attending school, Ponyboy was given Caucasian features which led to him being targeted by both sides of the town because it meant that he "wasn't really one thing or another."

Ponyboy can be quite emotional at times, mostly due to doubts about who he is as well as depression over his parent's death. He often cries when thinking about how little time they actually spent together before they were killed in a car crash; Darry becomes upset every time because their dad only ever drank when their mother wasn't around. The conflict that surfaces throughout the novel primarily stems from this event (Ponyboy's parents dying, not their father abusing alcohol).

The book is written in the first person point of view; this allows for us to gain an insight into Ponyboy's thoughts and feelings. The author also uses several literary techniques throughout the story (including symbolism) which makes it more interesting for us as readers. There are three main characters that you should focus on when writing your report: Ponyboy, Sodapop, and Darry.

By the end of this novel, readers are able to see how life has affected each individual member of this family; you should briefly mention what you believe would happen next in their lives. Were

there any unresolved issues at the conclusion? Were you satisfied with how everything turned out? Just remember to address these questions if asked!

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