The Outsiders

By S.E. Hinton

Power point by Dave Sykes, Mesa Verde Middle School, PUSD
In 1967, Viking Books published *The Outsiders* by a young woman named Susan Eloise Hinton. Her novel about teens growing up in Oklahoma in 1965/1966 was a hit with young people all over the country and earned her the nickname, “The Voice of Youth”. She gave young people an author who was “one of their own”, someone who saw the world from their point of view and wrote about the real questions and fears they experienced.

(Scholastic Books)
Setting:

- 1965/1966
- The gas stations, dreary streets and housing of the “poor side of town” that the Greaser’s call home.
- The manicured lawns of upper middle class suburbia where the Socs live.
- The theaters drive-ins and burger joints that are common ground.
- The high school both neighborhoods attend.
- The United States coming out of the innocence of the “50s” into a time of great social and political change.
Contemporary Personalities:

President Johnson (L.B.J.)

Dr. M.L. King Jr.
Political Tension at Home and Abroad:

March from Selma, Alabama 1965
Civil Rights March.

Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam 1965,
The fighting heats up.
The Civil Rights Movement Gains Momentum

An attempt to register black voters leads to “Bloody Sunday” at Selma, Alabama
Vietnam

LZ XRAY, 1966 (Courtesy of the U.S. Army)

L.B.J decides to increase our role/mission in Vietnam.

(U.S. A. F. Museum)
The 1st (Air) Cav. Div., 7th Cav. At Ia Drang, 1965 (U.S. Army Photo)

1st Cavalry Division

67th TFS pilots Da Nang in 1965. (U.S. Air Force)
Raquel Welch with the Bob Hope Show at Da Nang, 1968

U.S.M.C. Gunner, Near the DMZ 1967

1st. Cav. Moves through the Ira Drang Valley, 1966

Raquel Welch with the Bob Hope Show at Da Nang, 1968
The Times:
1967 in the U.S.A.

Lyndon Baines Johnson is president.

A first-class stamp cost 5 cents.

U.S. Population: 198 million
World population: 3.5 billion

#1 Television Show.

The Beatles

Popular movie
T.V. 1966

Americas Top 20 TV Favorites in 1966
Neil A. Armstrong
David R. Scott, crew of Gemini VIII
Police confront civil rights marchers in Alabama, 1965

The "Greensboro Four" (1960) waiting to be served at Woolworth's

Civil Rights Leaders 1965
Music and Film

Here are some images of popular artists and movies.

Elvis Presley  The Beatles  Beach movies  Paul Newman
Teen Music Trends:

Elvis Presley  
The Beach Boys
Hank Williams

September 17, 1923 – January 1, 1953

AMERICAN SINGER-SONGWRITER AND MUSICIAN
New Trends in Music:

The Beatles (1965)
STARS AND IDOLS: Paul Newman
In The Hustler (1963)
Steve Mc Queen in The Great Escape (1963)
Main Characters:

Greasers-
Socs-
The Greasers:

- Ponyboy Curtis
- Sodapop Curtis
- Darry Curtis
- Johnny Cade
- Dally Winston
- Two-bit Mathews
- Steve Randle
The two major groups of characters in *The Outsiders*

**Greasers**
- jeans, leather jackets, T-shirts

**Socs** (Pronounced “soshes”)
- madras – clothes with a plaid design
The Socs

- Cherry Valance
- Bob Gardner
Cars

Here are two cars that are mentioned in *The Outsiders*. The Covair is the first car mentioned in the book.

1965 Ford Mustang

Chevy Corvair
1960 Corvair
Greaser’s “32” Ford, Coupe

Socs’ “65” Ford, Mustang Convertable
Socs and Greasers

(Photos from the movie, American Graffiti)
GONE WITH THE WIND

Written by
Margaret Mitchell

Written 1936

Setting:
The Civil War

Starring:
Clark Gable
&
Vivien Leigh
Do you know your 1960s slang?
Watch out, the fuzz is after us!

When did you start carrying a heater?

That Kim is one knock-out broad!

That band you like is rank!
A 1967 Mustang is one tuff car.

The hoods cause trouble at night.

Pass me a cancer stick, Johnny.
He got jumped by three guys.

There was a big rumble at the park.

I was hacked off at my parents.

He got really pickled!
(under the influence)
Hurry, we gotta make tracks.

JD

The JD got five months in jail.

When did you get out of the cooler?

I could really use a weed right now.
Symbols

- The switchblade represents strength and power. The Greasers felt safer when carrying this to protect themselves.
The blue Mustang represents the upper class Socs. It stands for money, power and authority.

The rings are a symbol of wealth.
The cigarette is a symbol commonly seen in the book as well. Many of the Greasers started smoking at an early age. It made them feel older and helped them fit into their group. Later it became a way of passing time and keeping calm.
Literary Elements
Characterization

• The process by which the author reveals the physical traits and personality traits of a character -

• Physical - "He had an elfish face, with high cheekbones and a pointed chin, small, sharp animal teeth, and ears like a lynx."

• Personality - "They had a file on him down at the police station."
Setting

- The time and location of the story -
- 1960's - Hinton modeled the setting after her hometown of Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Ponyboy gets Pepsi at the DX where Soda works.
Flashback

• A literary device that an author uses to interrupt a story in order to relate an event that happened at an earlier time -

• "It was almost four months ago. I walked down to the DX station to get a bottle of pop... Steve noticed something lying on the ground..."
Foreshadow

• Words or phrases to hint something is going to happen without revealing the story or spoiling the suspense.

• "And Johnny, who was the most law-abiding of us, now carried in his back pocket a six-inch switchblade."
Allusion

• A reference to a well-known person, place, or time in history, literature, or work of art -
• "I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman."
Irony

• A contrast or strange connection between what is stated (expected to happen) and what is meant (actually does happen) -

• Three types of irony:
  • 1) Situational irony
  • 2) Verbal irony
  • 3) Dramatic irony
Situational irony

• This type of irony may occur when the outcome of a certain situation is completely different than what was initially expected. It is often referred to as an “irony of events.”
Verbal irony

• Verbal irony is when a person says or writes one thing and means another, or uses words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of the literal meaning.

• "How'd you like that haircut to begin just below the chin?"
Dramatic irony

• Dramatic Irony: when the audience understands the meaning of the situation because they know more information than the characters do.
Idiom

• An idiom is an expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words.

• "Soda ... never cracks a book at all."

• Soda's movie-star kind of handsome..."
Theme

• A theme is the central idea or ideas explored by a literary work. There may be more than one theme in a story.

• One theme of The Outsiders: Don’t judge someone based on the way they look or dress.

• "Maybe the two different worlds we lived in weren't so different. We saw the same sunset."
Symbolism

• In literature, symbolism can take many forms including: A figure of speech where an object, person, or situation has another meaning other than its literal meaning. The actions of a character, word, action, or event that have a deeper meaning in the context of the whole story.
Nothing Gold Can Stay
By Robert Frost

• Nature's first green is gold,
• Her hardest hue to hold.
• Her early leaf's a flower;
• But only so an hour.
• Then leaf subsides to leaf,
• So Eden sank to grief,
• So dawn goes down to day
• Nothing gold can stay.
Major topics developed in *The Outsiders*

1. **The fight between rich and poor.**
2. **The power of friendship.**
3. **What does it mean to be a hero?**
4. **The journey from youth to adulthood.**

Look for these topics to develop as we read the book!
The Lesson:

• **Nothing Gold Can Stay**
  Nature's first green is gold,  
  Her hardest hire to hold.  
  Her early leafs a flower;  
  But only so an hour.  
  Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
  So Eden sank to grief;  
  So down goes down today.  
  Nothing gold can stay.

• by Robert Frost
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by Robert Frost

(Nick Brockunier)
“Stay gold Ponyboy…!”
- Johnny Cade

(Nick Brockunier)