

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. The books should be available at our local book stores. If you are involved in extracurricular activities, it will lessen the stress in your life if you finish reading this book before school starts. After reading the book: complete 60 points worth of assignments in the Literal Connections, complete 20 points worth of assignments in the Interpretive Connections, and complete 20 points worth of assignments for the Experienced-Based Connections. The assignments will be due Friday, Sept. 4.

Literal Connections: Choose 60 points

- ___ 1. Find 20 words throughout the book that are new to you. Write out the words, a definition, a sentence, and a drawing or symbol to help you remember the meaning of the word. Use the context of the word from the book to help you. 10 points
- ___ 2. Hinton, the author, gives detailed descriptions of each of the characters in the book. Choose 3 characters and write 3 poems about these characters. 15 points
- ___ 3. Draw a cartoon of one of your favorite scenes in the book. 20 points
- ___ 4. Draw a poster that would appeal to your friends and would make them want to read the book. For example, the poster could resemble the back of the book, with pictures and a summary of the book. 20 points
- ___ 5. Write a newspaper story about Bob, after Chapter 4. 20 points
- ___ 6. Write a poem about family that reflects Ponyboy's relationship to either Soda or Darry. 15 points
- ___ 7. On poster board, create a "graffiti" collage featuring the slang words in the novel. Include actual meanings and current slang equivalents. 10 points
- ___ 8. Write another chapter with a different ending to the story. 30 points

Interpretive Connections: Choose 20 Points

- ___ 1. Pick out 12 significant incidents in the book. Make a timeline with the incidents and a two-sentence explanation of why they are significant. On the timeline, put the positive incidents towards the top of the paper and the negative incidents toward the bottom. 10 points
- ___ 2. Do an interview with Cherry for a local radio station. Include questions about the problems that exist everywhere and how she feels torn between the Socs and the Greasers. 10 points
- ___ 3. Make a list of 5 "groups" in your school that are similar to the Socs and the Greasers. What would the strengths and weaknesses be for each one? (List 5 strengths and 5 weaknesses for each group). 10 points
- ___ 4. Design your idea of the perfect place, like Ponyboy talks about. Include details about what you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch there. You may include photos or illustrations. Compare your perfect place to Pony's (at least 2 paragraphs). 10 points
- ___ 5. Design an award for each main character (choose 6 characters). Write a brief speech outlining why each character qualified for that particular award. For example: Rebel of the Year goes to Dally. 10 points

Experienced-Based Connections: Choose 20 points

- ___ 1. Find two articles in a magazine or newspaper that you think would explain a lesson that Ponyboy learned. Provide a 3-paragraph summary of each article, then in a paragraph explain its link to the book, and another paragraph with your opinion as to whether you agree or disagree (5 paragraphs total). 20 points
- ___ 2. Read another one of S.E. Hinton's novels, and in chart format, compare it to *The Outsiders*, focusing on the following literary elements: plot, setting, characters, and theme. 20 points
- ___ 3. Find 3 articles on the Internet about gangs and its risks. Summarize each article in at least 2 paragraphs and then in an additional paragraph include if you agree with these articles. Why? Why not? 20 points
- ___ 4. Research why juveniles commit serious crimes. Compare the reasons you find with the causes or reasons you can infer from the book. Use at least 3 sources. Write a one-page explanation or prepare a 5-minute presentation for the class.

Assignment originally developed by Michaela Mueller, La Vista Junior High