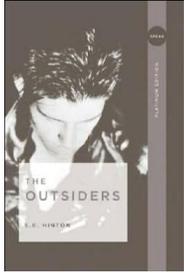


# Books by the Stack



## **The Outsiders** by S.E. Hinton

According to Ponyboy, there are two kinds of people in the world: greasers and socs. A soc (short for "social") has money, can get away with just about anything, and has an attitude longer than a limousine. A greaser, on the other hand, always lives on the outside and needs to watch his back.

**Why you'll like it:** Friendship. Sixties. Thought-Provoking.

**About the Author:** Susan Eloise Hinton is an American writer best known for her young-adult novels set in Oklahoma, especially *The Outsiders*, which she wrote during high school.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What does it mean to be an "outsider"?
2. Describe a time you have felt like an outsider.
3. What does it mean to be an insider?
4. How are the Greasers like a family? How do Darry, SodaPop and Ponyboy operate as a family? What is the problem between Darry and Ponyboy? Why do you think Darry's expectations are different for Ponyboy than for SodaPop?
5. How does Jerry stereotype the Greasers? Why is he so surprised that the Greasers would save the little kids from the fire? What does PonyBoy realize about his relationship with Darry? What was Darry afraid of, according to PonyBoy?
6. When Pony asks what kind of a world it is, what is he saying about how society judges people? What do you think Johnnys last words--"stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold"-- mean?
7. Why was Johnnys dying so difficult for Dally to handle? Why do you think Dally would have wanted to die? Explain why Pony might rather have anyone's hate than their pity.

8. Why doesn't Ponyboy feel scared when the Socs approach him and he threatens them with a broken bottle? How has Ponyboy changed?

9. What does Darry mean when he says, "you don't just stop living because you lose someone"?

10. What was so special about Johnny? What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?

*(Questions issued by educator)*

