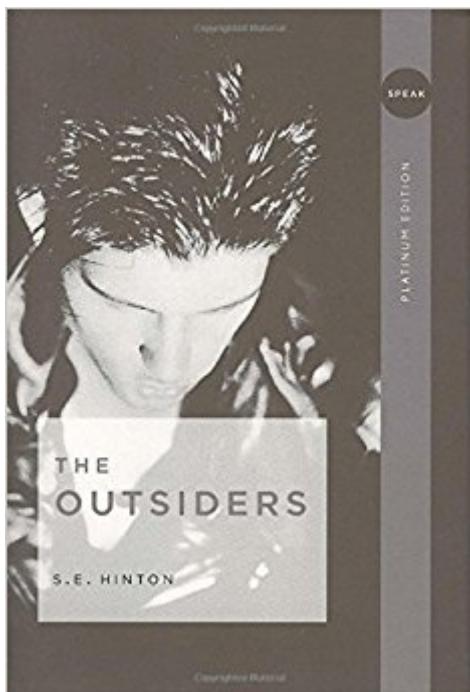


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# The Outsiders



## Synopsis

50 years of an iconic classic! This international bestseller and inspiration for a beloved movie is a heroic story of friendship and belonging. No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and SodaPop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. But not on much else besides trouble with the Socs, a vicious gang of rich kids whose idea of a good time is beating up on "greasers" like Ponyboy. At least he knows what to expect—until the night someone takes things too far. *The Outsiders* is a dramatic and enduring work of fiction that laid the groundwork for the YA genre. S. E. Hinton's classic story of a boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published. "The Outsiders transformed young-adult fiction from a genre mostly about prom queens, football players and high school crushes to one that portrayed a darker, truer world." —The New York Times "Taut with tension, filled with drama." —The Chicago Tribune "[A] classic coming-of-age book." —Philadelphia Daily News A New York Herald Tribune Best Teenage Book A Chicago Tribune Book World Spring Book Festival Honor Book An ALA Best Book for Young Adults Winner of the Massachusetts Children's Book Award

## Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Speak; Platinum ed. edition (April 20, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014240733X

ISBN-13: 978-0142407332

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.6 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 3,139 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #59 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Violence #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Classics #2 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Siblings

## Customer Reviews

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. Ponyboy is a greaser, and he's always been proud of it, even willing to rumble against a gang of socs for the sake of his fellow greasers--until one terrible night when his friend Johnny kills a soc. The murder gets under Ponyboy's skin, causing his bifurcated world to crumble and teaching him that pain feels the same whether a soc or a greaser. This classic, written by S. E. Hinton when she was 16 years old, is as profound today as it was when it was first published in 1967. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Praise for The Outsiders "The Outsiders" transformed young-adult fiction from a genre mostly about prom queens, football players and high school crushes to one that portrayed a darker, truer world." •The New York Times "Taut with tension, filled with drama." •The Chicago Tribune "[A] classic coming-of-age book." •Philadelphia Daily News "What it's like to live lonely and unwanted and cornered by circumstance...There is rawness and violence here, but honest hope, too." •National Observer "This remarkable novel gives a moving, credible view of the outsiders from the inside...we meet powerful characters in a book with a powerful message." •The Horn Book A •New York Herald Tribune •Best Teenage Book A •Chicago Tribune •Book World Spring Book Festival Honor Book An ALA Best Book for Young Adults Winner of the Massachusetts Children's Book Award

I think I'm the only person over 18 who'd never read this book. The situation of the story is one that's still true, today. Gangs and their fighting and rumble are still happening everywhere for the high school age people. This book tries to give an understanding of both sides and why they are the way they are, individually and as a group. If you haven't read this book before and you're over 13, I suggest you read this to have a better idea what's going on.

I read this book and bought it a long long time ago. However my daughter's school is reading it and said that the older version may not go exactly with the same formatting as the newer books. -- She said that the teacher may reference specific pages and it may be different with the older one. Thus the reason for buying a newer copy. Overall I do like the story line, as I typically like to read the story to get a better understanding of the characters before watching the movie. I do plan to update this once my daughter reads it and provides her opinion of the book.

The Outsiders changed my life forever. After reading this book, I never again looked at some things the same way. It is, to this day, still the greatest book I have ever read. I normally don't read nonfiction or realistic fiction, only fantasy or sci fi, but this book caught my eye. I enjoy how it was written by a teenager, because there is no better person to illustrate the lives of teens in a story. I don't like to write, but Hinton's book has inspired me to write more. The characters are so well developed that I felt like I could really live with them in the story. The plot and setting were so realistic and made me feel that the situations included in this novel were real. As Ponyboy and the gang face hardship and danger, they got to know each other like brothers. The close knit gang gets even closer throughout the story. I would recommend this book to teenagers everywhere, and when I read The Outsiders, I was thirteen years old. I have read it over and over again throughout the years, and each time I have read it, I got a different view of the characters and began to see through their eyes.

"The Outsider" is a growing up tale by the wunderkind S.E. Hinton (she wrote the novel when she was still in high school). In a small town two gangs are divided along class lines. The greasers come from abusive and broken families, and they fight against a society that hates them as a way to identify themselves. The Socs come from success-driven and wealthy families, and they like to beat up greasers for kicks. But a common adolescent angst and need for belonging unite both groups in a common frail humanity, and it's the frailness and vulnerability of all the characters that make this book such a compelling read. The narrator is fourteen-year-old Ponyboy, a greaser who's precariously straddling two worlds. Ponyboy's smart and articulate and loves to read, and though his parents are gone he's protected by two older brothers who will fight to the death to ensure a better life for their youngest sibling. If he keeps his head low then eventually he'll make it into the world of the Socs, which is where his eldest brother belongs (but isn't because he's so busy taking care of Ponyboy). But Ponyboy's loyal and emotional, and his best friends are the underachieving greasers, and it's Ponyboy's struggle to achieve an individual identity that is the central underlying tension in this book. What makes this book ultimately work is Ponyboy's smooth elegant diction, which betrays a sensitivity and vulnerability, but also thoughtfulness and ambition. In her first book, SE Hinton displays the same powerful empathy and wisdom that Carson McCullers displayed in "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter."

When my daughter was in 6th grade at an academic magnet school, THE OUTSIDERS was on her reading list. I was busy with little ones and paid little attention. When my youngest was assigned the

book this year we pulled it off our bookshelf for him. I told him I'd read it with him. After the first chapter I told him I was getting this book for ME! I put it on my Kindle, and we have read it together. We've had so many good discussions which included another one of our teens who had read it in middle school. The book has the ability to bring out thoughts and feelings that need to be discussed with young teens. No matter that the book is set in the 60's, it's theme, its social issues are today. I can't even say how many healthy discussions have taken place around our dinner table about THE OUTSIDERS. By a fluke we happened to attend a Paideia seminar on the poem, "One Today" which was read at this year's presidential inauguration. We all couldn't wait to see if the others caught the parallel in the themes. I just bought our high school daughter a Kindle, and what did she want to do first? Re-read THE OUTSIDERS! My advice: Buy it for you; then let your teens read it! (-:

One of the kids (13) wanted this book after the teacher read it to them in class. I had not read it in a long time. It was of another time - kids unsupervised, bullies, beer drinking and fistfights. It does get quite dramatic. I did not ask my nephew what part of the book "caught him" but this is the first book he ever wanted to read so I got it for him.

I can't believe this was written by a high school student, though now almost half a century ago. Hinton is only a couple of years younger than I am. So we grew up in the same era. I have to say I went to school with the both the kids growing up in the very lower working class (that me) and kids in the middle to upper middle class. Maybe it was because we were in the south so we had another race to look down on (If that upsets you, I'm sorry, that's the way it was.) or maybe I was just too much in my own world, but I don't remember the class hatred. We really didn't have the equivalent of Socks and Greasers. Still the books rings true, the charters are real the violence believable, and it all works on many different levels

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