

SUMMER READING FOR SEVEN PEAKS LANGUAGE ARTS
Required Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Grade Students
for the 2015-2016 School Year



All students who will be in 8th grade Language Arts in the 2015-2016 school year must read The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton (ISBN 978-0-14-038582-4) prior to the first day of school. The Deschutes Public Library has multiple copies of the novel, Mrs. Holdredge has about a dozen copies to loan, or you may purchase your own copy. We will spend time the first week of school discussing the themes, characters, and ideas in the book. Strong student participation is expected in the discussions and in the attached assignment, "The Outsiders Guided Reading Packet."

If you have any questions, first re-read the directions in this packet.
If you don't find the answer there, feel free to email me
at aholdredge@sevenpeaksschool.org.

The Outsiders Guided Reading Packet

Due: first day of school

Grade Weight: major formative project grade

Directions:

- Complete the following questions/tasks.
 - You may type your answers or use a composition book or loose-leaf paper.
 - If handwriting, please write:
 - In pen
 - On front of pages only
 - Be sure to answer all parts of questions that have more than one part/question.
 - **For all questions, either rewrite the question or restate the question in your answer.**
 - *Hint: saving this document and typing your answers directly onto it will save you time, and then you can just email your packet to me as a Word attachment.*
 - **Warning: these questions contain plot spoilers, so only look at the questions for each chapter after you've read that chapter.**
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- If you end up with a copy of the book whose page numbers do not match those provided in my questions, preview the questions first so that you can be on the lookout for the specified quotes. OR, if you don't want plot spoilers, this is a short book with short chapters—it shouldn't be that time-consuming to skim and find the quotes.

The Outsiders Guided Reading Packet

CHAPTER 1

1. Create a t-chart (see example below) to list the character traits of Greasers and Socs. Be sure to use **SPECIFIC WORDS AND PHRASES** from the novel.

Greasers		Socs

2. Create a chart to describe the characters listed below. You should explain what they look like, how they act, what their reputations are, etc. Be sure to use **SPECIFIC WORDS AND PHRASES** from the novel. Characters: Ponyboy, Darry, Sodapop, Steve Randle, Two-Bit Mathews, Dallas Winston, Johnny Cade
3. What is the difference between “tough” and “tuff”?
4. Do YOU think that Darry loves Pony? Explain your answer.

CHAPTER 2

5. What is a Greaser’s definition of friendship? (p. 26)
6. What is a Greaser’s definition of a fair fight? (p. 29)
7. According to Two-Bit, why don’t Socs fight fair? (p. 29)
8. What two rules do all Greasers follow? (p. 29)

CHAPTER 3

9. What request does Cherry make of Ponyboy? Are you surprised by this? Explain. (pp. 45-46)
10. Why does Darry strike Ponyboy? Do you think he means to? How does he feel afterwards? (pp. 49-50)
11. The blue Mustang is a symbol (an object that represents one or more ideas). What do you think the blue Mustang symbolizes? Explain.

CHAPTER 4

12. What is Bob's definition of a greaser? Why does it upset Pony so much? (p. 55)
13. If you were Johnny and Pony's lawyer, how would you defend them in a court of law? Give THREE reasons for your defense.
14. The boys immediately turn to Dally for help. Why is he the logical choice?
15. Why do you think it would be "a miracle if Dally loved anything"? (p. 59)

CHAPTER 5

16. Put yourself in Pony's place. How would you feel about your situation? EXPLAIN IN DETAIL.
17. Answer the following questions to explain why appearance is very important in this chapter.
 - A. How does the boys' appearance change?
 - B. How do Ponyboy and Johnny feel about this change?
 - C. How will others view them now that they have changed their appearance?
18. What gift does Johnny bring Pony? Why does Johnny enjoy this gift as much or more than Pony?
19. What does the poem on page 77 mean? Look it up online if you need ideas.

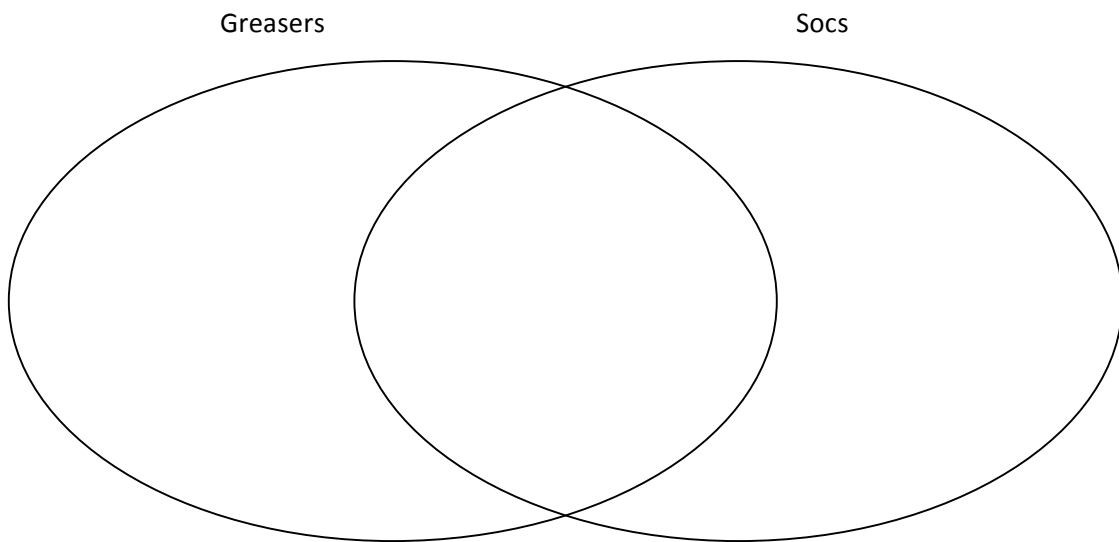
CHAPTER 6

Chapter 6 is a pivotal chapter, with many important quotes that give the reader a better understanding of the characters and the book's themes. Explain why the following quotations are important. What do they tell you about the characters saying them and those being mentioned? How do they improve your understanding? **TAKE YOUR TIME, AND BE THOROUGH WITH YOUR ANSWERS.**

20. "Oh, blast it, Johnny"—he pushed his white-blond hair back out of his eyes—"you get hardened in jail. I don't want that to happen to you. Like it happened to me..." (pp. 89-90)
21. "I caught one quick look at his face; it was red-marked from falling embers and sweat-streaked, but he grinned at me. He wasn't scared either. That was the only time I can think of when I saw him without that defeated, suspicious look in his eyes. He looked like he was having the time of his life." (p. 92)
22. "I let go of Soda and stood there for a minute. Darry didn't like me... he had driven me away that night... he had hit me... Darry hollered at me all the time... he didn't give a hang about me... Suddenly I realized, horrified that Darry was crying." (p. 98)
23. "I had taken the long way around, but I was finally home. To stay." (p. 99)

CHAPTER 7

24. Describe Johnny's medical condition. (pp 102-103)
25. Do you think the Curtis brothers will be separated? Explain. (pp. 107-110)
26. What has happened to Sandy? How does Soda feel about the situation? (pp. 111-112)
27. One of the major ideas of chapter 7 is that "things are rough all over." Using a Venn diagram like the one below, detail the following:
- A. things that are rough for the Greasers
 - B. things that are rough for the Socs
 - C. things that are rough for both the Greasers and the Socs



CHAPTER 8

28. Describe Johnny's attitude towards death. (pp. 121-122)
29. Put yourself in Johnny's place. If you knew that you were going to die in the near future, how would you feel? What would you want to do with the time you had left?
30. Compare Johnny's feelings for his family before the fire to his feelings while he is in the hospital.
31. Why do you think that his feelings about his parents change?
32. Explain the following quote: "You know, the only thing that keeps Darry from being a Soc is us." (p. 126)

CHAPTER 9

33. Even though Pony does not want to be a greaser and does not like many of the things that greasers do, the rumble allows him to be proud to be a greaser. Explain this contradiction. (pp. 132-133)

34. What are the rules of the rumble? (pp. 140-142)

35. Why does Darry hate Paul Holden so much? (p. 142)

36. What are Johnny's last words? What do you think they mean?

CHAPTERS 10-12

37. There is evidence that the relationship between Pony and Darry is improving. Give at least TWO specific examples from these three chapters that support this idea.

38. The judge makes a decision to let the Curtis family stay together. If you were that judge, would you have removed Pony and placed him in foster care or would you have let them stay together? Explain your decision.

39. Why is it important for Pony to write his story? What is significant about the last lines of the book?

40. Now that you are finished reading the novel, would you recommend the book to others? Why or why not?

OPTIONAL: SUGGESTED SUMMER READS

Heist Society

After a childhood spent assisting her father, one of the world's most talented art thieves, Katarina Bishop tries to leave the family business behind when she forges her way into a New England boarding school. She quickly discovers, though, that her past is inescapable. Her father has been accused of stealing already stolen masterpieces from a dangerous Italian billionaire. Certain that her father is innocent, Kat resolves to find the missing paintings and return them to their unsavory owner, who has given her a two-week deadline. Carter, the author of the Gallagher Girls series, skillfully maintains suspense as Kat assembles a team of teen accomplices, travels across Europe, and plots an impossible art heist to save her dad. This is a thoroughly enjoyable, cinema-ready adventure, and the details of thieving tools and techniques, lavish settings, and cast of eccentric characters, including possible spies and love interests, all add texture and depth to the action. Readers will hope for a sequel to answer the book's central mystery: if Kat's father isn't guilty, then who is? (from [Booklist](#)) (recommended for grades 6-10)

I Am Genius of Unspeakable Evil and I Want to Be Your Class President, by Josh Lieb

Lieb's first novel is a comedy/sci-fi fantasy about Oliver Watson, an overweight 12-year-old from Omaha, Nebraska, who fools his family and classmates into thinking that he is slow-witted when in fact he is the world's third-richest person. He overthrows foreign dictators, owns corporations, is a successful inventor and investor, and is on the way to attaining his goal of world domination. His father and arch nemesis is too involved in running a local PBS affiliate, and Oliver really seeks his dad's approval and attention. He decides that the way to get this is to win the election for president of the eighth-grade class at Gale Sayers Middle School. The format—short blurbs of text interspersed with humorous black-and-white photos—will appeal to a variety of readers. Although the book has as little subtlety as its title, certainly the theme of a boy wanting his father's love is a universal one. (adapted from Connie Tyrrell Burns from the [School Library Journal](#)) (recommended for grades 7-9)

The Adoration of Jenna Fox, by Mary E. Pearson

The ethics of bioengineering in the not-so-distant future drive this story. Jenna, 17, severely injured in a car crash, is saved by her heartbroken father, a scientist who illegally uses the latest medical technology to help her. Only 10 percent of her original brain is saved, but Dad has programmed her by uploading the high-school curriculum. She could live two years or 200. Is she a monster or a miracle? Why have her parents hidden her away? The science (including allusions to the dangerous overuse of antibiotics) and the science fiction are fascinating, but what will hold readers most are the moral issues of betrayal, loyalty, sacrifice, and survival. Jenna realizes it is her parents' love that makes them break the law to save her at any cost. The teen's first-person, present-tense narrative is fast and immediate as Jenna makes new friends and confronts the complicated choices she must make now. (adapted from [Booklist](#)) (recommended for grades 8 and up)

The Compound, by S. A. Bodeen

In a burst of panic about a nuclear attack, nine-year-old Eli, his sisters, and his parents move into an underground bunker built by Eli's billionaire father. It's an enormous complex, with rooms similar to those in the family's Seattle mansion. Only his grandmother and twin brother don't make it in. The first six years of the planned 15 have been fairly routine, but now some food has spoiled, and certain things just don't seem right, or even possible. Eli is starting to have doubts about his father's motives, explanations, and sanity. There is considerable foreshadowing, and astute readers will likely figure out the ending. As the years pass, Eli is full of teen angst and anger that develops into a realization of what he must do in order to help his family survive. The novel becomes full of tension and suspense and turns into a true edge-of-the-seat thriller. (adapted from [School Library Journal](#)) (recommended for grades 7 and up)

The Karma Club, by Jessica Brody

Madison Kasparkova always thought she understood how Karma works. It's that mysterious, powerful force that brings harmony to the universe. You know—do good things and you will be rewarded, do something bad and Karma will make sure you get what's coming to you: a sort of cosmic balancing act. But when Mason, Maddy's boyfriend of two years, gets caught kissing the popular, beautiful Heather, and absolutely nothing happens to either of them—except that they wind up the hot new couple of Colonial High School, it seems like Karma has officially left Maddy in the lurch. That's why Maddy and her best friends, Angie and Jade, decide to start the Karma Club—a secret, members-only organization whose sole purpose is to clean up the messes that the universe has been leaving behind. Whether they're modifying Heather's acne cream as part of "Operation Butterface," or righting a few wrongs when it comes to Angie and Jade's own slimy exes, they know they're just doing what Karma should have done in the first place. Sometimes, though, it isn't wise to meddle with the universe. Because it turns out, when you mess with Karma, Karma messes back. Now Maddy must find a way to balance her life for good, even as everything around her seems to be toppling to the ground (adapted from www.jessicabrody.com) (recommended for grades 8 and up)

Matched, by Ally Condie

In the Society, Officials decide whom you love, where you work, and when you die. Cassia has always trusted the Society's choices. It's hardly any price to pay for a long life, the perfect job, the ideal mate. So when her best friend appears on the Matching screen, Cassia knows with complete certainty that he is the one... until she sees another face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. Now Cassia is faced with impossible choices: between Xander and Ky, between the only life she's known and a path no one else has ever dared follow—to make choices of her own and dare to defy the Society's rules. (adapted from Ally Condie's website) (recommended for grades 7 and up)

The Warrior Heir, by Cinda Williams Chima

One March day, Jack Swift, a high school student in a small college town, forgets to take the medicine he's taken daily since he was an infant. There ensues a cascade of events that puts him in mortal danger, and Jack soon discovers he carries a secret within him that has made him a target of the ruthless wizards of the Red and White Rose. Jack is a Warrior Heir, the last of a dying breed, sought after by the Roses to fight in the tournaments that are used to allocate power among the Wizard Houses. Unknown to him, Jack has lived all his life surrounded by members of the Magical Guilds: wizards, enchanters, soothsayers, and sorcerers. They are determined to save him from the Roses. Soon with the aid of his aunt, a beautiful enchanter, Jack desperately tries to acquire the skills that might save his life. Jack and his friends, Will and Fitch, unearth a magical sword from a cemetery and fight off the wizards who would take it from them. Jack begins training with the dark and dangerous Leander Hastings, a wizard with a mysterious past. Jack, discovered and besieged by treachery at home, flees to the Lake District of England. There he is confronted by the greatest challenge of all. (adapted from the author's website) (recommended for grades 7 and up)

The Truth about Forever, by Sarah Dessen

Macy, 16, witnessed her father's death, but has never figured out how to mourn. Instead, she stays in control by keeping good grades and a perfect boyfriend and trying to fake her way to "normal." Then she gets a job at Wish Catering. It is run by pregnant, forgetful Delia and staffed by her nephews, Bert and Wes, and her neighbors Kristy and Monica. Working and eventually hanging out with her new friends, Macy sees what it's like to live a different kind of lifestyle, from dealing with kitchen fires to sneaking out at night, and slowly realizes life is not so bad. Wes and Macy play an ongoing game of Truth and share everything from gross-outs to what it feels like to watch someone you love die. (adapted from School Library Journal from Johanna Lewis) (recommended for grades 7 and up)

Gym Candy, by Carl Deuker

Runningback Mick Johnson has dreams: dreams of cutting back, finding the hole, breaking into the open, and running free with nothing but green grass ahead. He has dreams of winning and of being the best. But football is a cruel sport. It requires power, grace, speed, quickness, and knowledge of the game. It takes luck, too. One crazy bounce can turn a likely victory into sudden defeat. What elite athlete wouldn't look for an edge? A way to make him bigger, stronger, faster? This novel explores the dark corners of the heart of a young football player as he struggles for success under the always glaring—and often unforgiving—stadium lights. (from <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com>) (recommended for grades 8 and up)

A Separate Peace, by John Knowles

John Knowles' beloved classic has been a bestseller for more than 30 years and is one of the most moving and accurate novels about the trials and confusions of adolescence ever written. Set at an elite boarding school for boys during World War II, *A Separate Peace* is the story of friendship and treachery, and how a tragic accident involving two young men forever tarnishes their innocence. (from www.goodreads.com) (recommended for grades 9 and up)

Woods Runner, by Gary Paulsen

Paulsen's latest work of historical fiction provides a stark glimpse of just how awful the Revolutionary War really was for those who suffered through it. Though his parents are city folk trying to hack out a life on the frontier in Pennsylvania, 13-year-old Samuel is entirely at home in the woodland wilderness that surrounds their little settlement. Soon after word arrives of the uprising in Concord and Lexington, Samuel returns home from a jaunt in the forest to find his home burned down, the neighbors slaughtered, and his parents missing. Samuel tracks his captured parents through the countryside to British-held New York, encountering scalping bands of Iroquois, pillaging squads of mercenary Hessians, and a few hardy, helpful rebels along the way. Paulsen alternates chapters of Samuel's story with historical notes that illuminate the sobering realities of the Revolution and add some context not found in most history books. Paulsen's rewarding and fast-paced novel offers an honest assessment of heroism. (adapted from Booklist from Ian Chipman) (recommended for grades 6-9)

The Daughters, by Joanna Philbin (1st of series)

Lizzie, Carina, and Hudson are fiercely loyal 14-year-old BFFs in trendy New York. They have something in common—wealthy celebrity parents who don't always share their daughters' values. The novel is narrated by Lizzie, whose mother is the *über*-famous model Katia Summers, whom designers have named "walking proof of God." It's a tough act to follow, especially for gawky Lizzie, who has a large nose and frizzy hair. Knowing that she can never measure up, she hates it when they're forced to pose together at events. But when famous "ugly-model" photographer Andrea asks Lizzie to pose due to her unique, real-life look (the "New Pretty"), she defiantly ignores her publicist's commands and goes for it, and for the first time in her life, recognizes her own beauty. In the process, she begins a relationship with a boy she thought was out of her league. Tweens and young teens will eagerly look forward to the next installment. (adapted from School Library Journal from Susan Riley) (recommended for grades 6 and up)