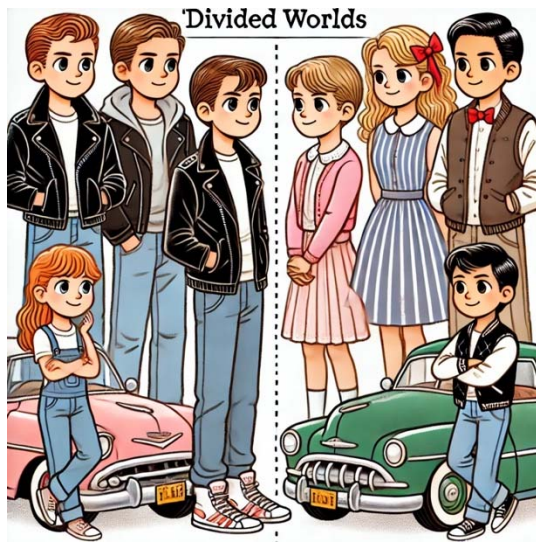


Name _____



Divided Worlds

In *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, Ponyboy Curtis struggles to understand the invisible walls that separate people. These walls are not made of bricks but of money, status, and expectations. Ponyboy is a Greaser, a group known for their tough attitudes, leather jackets, and close friendships. On the other side are the Socs, short for

"Socials," the wealthy kids who drive nice cars and wear fancy clothes.

The Greasers and the Socs rarely mix, except when they fight. The Socs look down on the Greasers, calling them troublemakers. The Greasers, in turn, see the Socs as spoiled and heartless. Ponyboy, however, wonders if things are really that simple. When he meets Cherry, a Soc girl, he realizes that she faces struggles too. "Things are rough all over," she tells him, making Ponyboy think twice about the differences between their groups.

Despite this moment of understanding, the division between the Socs and the Greasers remains strong. When Johnny, Ponyboy's best friend, kills a Soc in self-defense, the two boys must run away. This tragic event highlights the biggest problem of social class division—how it leads to violence and misunderstandings. If the Greasers and Socs had been able to see each other as equals, would things have ended differently?

Ponyboy starts to realize that being a Greaser or a Soc doesn't define a person. Instead, it's who you are inside that matters. By the end of the novel, he understands that everyone—rich or poor—feels pain, joy, and fear. He learns that while the world may be divided, people can choose to look past those divisions and see each other as individuals.