

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Still Relevant

Although *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton was written in the 1960s, its themes still connect with modern readers. The novel explores issues such as social class differences, friendship, identity, and the challenges of growing up. These struggles continue to affect people today, making the book as meaningful now as it was when it was first published.

One of the biggest themes in *The Outsiders* is the division between social groups. In the novel, the Greasers and the Socs constantly clash because they

come from different backgrounds. The Greasers struggle with poverty, while the Socs have wealth and privilege. Even though their experiences are different, both groups feel pressure to fit in and meet society's expectations. Today, many people still experience divisions based on money, popularity, or social status, making this theme just as important now as it was then.

The novel also explores the theme of identity. Ponyboy, the narrator, is a Greaser, but he does not feel like he fits the tough image of his group. He enjoys reading, watching sunsets, and thinking deeply about life. His struggle to figure out who he really is mirrors the challenges that many teenagers face today. Young people still deal with pressure to act a certain way based on where they come from or who their friends are.

Friendship is another reason *The Outsiders* remains relevant. The Greasers stick together like a family because they do not have much support at home. Their friendships help them survive difficult times. This reflects the importance of friendships in real life—many people rely on their friends for emotional support when they go through tough situations.

Finally, *The Outsiders* teaches an important lesson about understanding others. By the end of the novel, Ponyboy realizes that people are more than just their social groups. He learns that both Greasers and Socs have struggles, and that judging someone only by their background is unfair. This message continues to be important today, as people are still judged based on where they live, how they dress, or what they have.

Even though *The Outsiders* was written decades ago, it remains a powerful story because it deals with real emotions and experiences that people still go through today.