

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. The books should be available at our local book stores. If you are involved in extracurricular activities, it will lessen the stress in your life if you finish reading this book before school starts. After reading the book: complete one assignment from each of the categories below: Literal Connections, Interpretive Connections, and Experienced-Based Connections. You should have three assignments. They are due Friday of the second week of school. We will have a test over the book the following Monday.

Literal Connections: Choose One

___ Hinton, the author, gives detailed descriptions of each of the characters in the book. Choose 4 characters and write a poem about each of the characters. *Expectations: poems should include descriptions of either their personality or their looks and demonstrates thoughtful word choices.*

___ Draw a cartoon of one of your favorite scenes in the book and write a paragraph explaining what was happening in the scene and why you liked this particular scene. *Expectations: cartoon includes details from the story and shows effort (not just stick figures.)*

___ Draw a poster that would appeal to your friends and would make them want to read the book. Be sure to include pictures and your own summary of the book. *Expectations: Use original ideas and not those from the movie poster or the back of the book.*

___ Write a newspaper story about Bob, after Chapter 4. *Expectations: include details about Bob from the book; be creative as well as state the facts. Your story needs to follow journalism guidelines: written in 3rd person, presents facts, and includes quotes from people involved in Bob's life or the circumstances of his death.*

___ On poster board, create a "graffiti" collage featuring 15 slang words in the novel. Include the literal meaning of the word and the current slang equivalent. *Expectations: remember neatness and effort counts.*

Interpretive Connections: Choose One

___ Pick out 12 significant incidents in the book. Make a timeline with the incidents and a two-sentence explanation of why they are significant. On the timeline, put the positive incidents towards the top of the paper and the negative incidents toward the bottom. *Expectations: the key word is significant events or incidents.*

___ Do an interview with Cherry for a local radio station. Include questions about the problems that exist everywhere and how she feels torn between the Socs and the Greasers. *Expectations: Write each question that the reporter would ask and then write Cherry's response, like a play or movie script. Don't ask factual questions, but instead ask interpretive questions that require insight into Cherry's character.*

____ Make a list of 5 "groups" in your school that are similar to the Socs and the Greasers. What would the strengths and weaknesses be for each one? (List 5 strengths and 5 weaknesses for each group). *Expectations: each group should have some unique strengths and weaknesses.*

____ Design your idea of the perfect place, like Ponyboy talks about. Include details about what you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch there. You may include photos or illustrations. Compare your perfect place to Pony's (at least 2 paragraphs).

____ Write another chapter with a different ending to the story. *Expectations: replace the last chapter or add an additional chapter; it should be long enough to show effort and reflect your knowledge of the story.*

Experienced-Based Connections: Choose One

____ Read another one of S.E. Hinton's teen novels: *Rumble Fish*, *That Was Then, This is Now*, *Tex*, and *Taming the Star Runner* and write an essay comparing it to *The Outsiders*, focusing on the following literary elements: plot, setting, characters, conflict, and theme.

____ Research why juveniles commit serious crimes. Compare the reasons you find with the causes or reasons you can infer from the book. Use at least 3 sources. Create a PowerPoint that could be used in a 5-minute presentation for the class. *Expectations: be sure to include a list of your resources. You should have about 10 slides.*

____ Interview two people who were in high school during the 1960's and ask them about their memories of social classes, activities, conflicts, clothes, slang, and friends. Compare their experiences to those that S.E. Hinton wrote about in her book. Write an essay about the similarities and differences found in your interview and in the book. Are their similarities? Are there differences? Why?

Rubric for Assignments

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| Quality of Information (40%) <i>Shows understanding of the novel, characters, plotline, motivation, conflict, setting, and theme.</i> | |
| Effort Reflected in Assignment (40%) <i>Reflects effort spent in critical analysis, planning, and producing the assignment.</i> | |
| Professionalism (Neatness) (20%) <i>Demonstrates concern and care in the presentation of the assignment.</i> | |

Assignment originally developed by Michaela Mueller, La Vista Junior High