

# THE OUTSIDERS

by **S.E. Hinton**

**Published in 1967**

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):



Contemporary/Realistic



Action/adventure



Science Fiction



Fantasy



Romance



Horror



Mystery



Nonfiction



Historical fiction



Other:

S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* is a coming-of-age novel that explores the reality of social division as well as classism in 1960's America, while also offering heartfelt messages pertaining to friendship and loyalty. The book follows fourteen-year-old Ponyboy and his band of friends who are part of a rough-and-tumble group called Greasers, who face off against their wealthy rivals, the Socs. While Ponyboy is swept into the violent clash between classes, he discovers the importance of his relationships and of having true empathy.

Ponyboy's emotional journey is one that many teenagers can connect with, as it offers the perspective of someone who is trying to discover his identity while feeling as though hardly anyone understands his experience. He feels resentment for his brother Darry, who he feels underestimates him, and for the Socs, who look down upon him for his social class, but Ponyboy in the end manages to extend the empathy of someone beyond his years. He learns that every person has their own story, and that people are much more than their surface level qualities.

I think that Hinton defines what it means to have written an honest work with *The Outsiders*, because while there is no censorship of people's flaws or of violence and cruelty, Hinton is able to expose the true goodness that lives within every person. His writing is not clouded with judgement or bias, and instead uses the unfiltered perspective of a teenager to convey a message that can only be described as purely genuine.

By Carolina E, 12th grade, enjoys reading science fiction, mystery, & action/adventure