

Summer Reading 9 English Pre-AP

Novels: *The Giver* written by Lois Lowery
The Outsiders written by S.E. Hinton

Assignment Details:

You are responsible for obtaining copies of these novels on your own. They are widely available. Read the novels and be prepared to take objective tests with multiple choice questions and discussion questions. The tests will be either the first or second week of school. I have attached some reading comprehension questions which will help you check your understanding of each novel as you read. The questions will be graded and are due the first day of school.

I hope you will enjoy reading these novels. I am looking forward to seeing you in 9th grade! Have a great summer. You may email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Discussion Questions for The Giver

Directions: Read the following prompts and answer in well-developed paragraphs.

1. What evidence shows that Jonas does not initially understand what happens when a person is released?
2. Which of the rules are “almost always” broken without any punishments? What is the worst punishment possible?
3. How does the author inform the reader that the climate of the community is artificially controlled? What are the advantages and disadvantages of climate control?
4. Comment on the following phrases from the story. In what way are they clichéd?
 - a. “Thank you for your childhood”
 - b. “I apologize for...”
 - c. “We accept your apology”
5. *Define the concept of Sameness. What sacrifices do people have to make to live this way?*
6. *Explain the Capacity to See Beyond. How can this capacity be considered a mixed blessing for Jonas?*
7. Why does Jonas think it is wrong for Asher and Fiona to be content with their “safe, easy” lives

The Outsiders

Study Guide

Ch. 1

1. Who is the narrator in this story? Describe him.
2. Who are the Socs? Who are the Greasers?
3. Identify the following characters: Darryl, Sodapop, Steve Randall, Dallas Winston, and Johnny.

4. How did Two-Bit Matthews get his name? What type of stealing is his specialty?
5. Soda tells Ponyboy that Darryl keeps after him because the older boy loves his younger brother. Why does Ponyboy think that Soda is wrong?
6. Ponyboy tells us that Darryl grew up too fast and that Sodapop has never grown up at all. He concludes, "I don't know which way's the best. I'll find out one of these days." From this, what would you suppose this novel is going to be about?
7. What is Ponyboy's guess as to why Dallas is bitter about life? (P 11)

Ch. 2

1. Why does Ponyboy get a sinking feeling and become embarrassed when he sees Dallas sit down behind the two Soc girls?
2. In addition to being older and tougher, in what other ways is Dallas different from Johnny and Pony?
3. Why does Dallas not hit, or at least say something smart to Johnny when Johnny tells Dallas to leave the girls alone?
4. What is Pony proud of, and what is he ashamed of regarding Soda?
5. In the flashback pages (31-34), how far in the past did the incident occur, and about what incidents do we learn the details?
6. What does Cherry tell Pony about the Socs that he has a hard time believing?
7. What does Cherry's comment to Pony about trouble suggest or foreshadow?
8. Earlier, Cherry showed herself to be a sensitive person when she finishes Marcia's statement by saying both boys look sixteen. What is it Marcia is going to say, and why does Cherry stop her?
9. To what does the last line in Ch. 2 refer? What is foreshadowed by this line?

Ch. 3

1. What do Cherry and Ponyboy say is the real difference between the Socs and greasers?
2. What is it in Pony that Cherry likes?
3. What could Cherry possibly find interesting about Dallas?

4. Why does Pony lash out at Johnny?
5. Sum up in one sentence what Ponyboy says "ain't fair".
6. The blue Mustang is bound to show up again. Why?
7. On p. 46, why does Pony say, "Two-Bit was smart. He knew the score"?
8. Pony has a hard time adjusting to life's injustices. How does he see the others deal with the inequalities of life?
9. What does the country represent for Pony?
10. Why does Darryl slap Ponyboy?
11. What is foreshadowed by the last paragraph in this chapter?

Ch. 4

1. Why does Johnny take the action he does?
2. What does Ponyboy conclude Cherry must have seen in Dallas?
3. What is it that Ponyboy now thinks is worse than being a greaser?
4. Ponyboy says that the Church gave him a "creepy feeling" -a premonition. What kind of premonition might he get in church?
5. Throughout this story, loyalty among the greasers is brought up quite often. Why do they place such a high value on loyalty?
6. Was it a smart thing for Ponyboy to leave with Johnny?
7. Was it smart of Johnny to run away?

Ch. 5

1. Why does Pony feel bad about cutting his hair?
2. According to Ponyboy, why do the courts cut people's hair?
3. Why does Johnny not like to think about the stabbing?
4. Having cried themselves out, what mood are Ponyboy and Johnny in now?
5. What can you infer from the crying incident?
6. The Frost poem that Pony remembers on p. 69 concludes, "Nothing gold can stay." What is that poem saying about nature? About youth?
7. How could the line, "Nothing gold can stay" apply to life?
8. When Johnny says, "I guess we're different" (p. 70), Ponyboy responds, "Maybe they are." What is Pony implying?
9. What is the situation in town? Who is the spy the greasers have?

Ch. 6

1. What seems to give Johnny the most pain in his life?
2. On p.90, what side of Dallas does Ponyboy see that he never saw before?
3. Why do the boys feel responsible for the fire?
4. At the end of this chapter what is it that Pony comes to understand?
5. What unusual sound do they hear?
6. What is the irony of the boy's actions at the fire?
7. Explain Ponyboy's feelings about why Darry cries.

Ch. 7

1. After reading the morning paper what is Ponyboy's biggest fear?
2. What does the narrator mean when he says, "Serious reality has a hard time coming through to Soda, but when it does, it hits him hard"?
3. What does Pony's nightmare seem to foreshadow?
4. What is the implication that is made about Soda's girlfriend Sandy?
5. What is odd that Ponyboy says about Randy?
6. Randy says that Bob always wanted his parents to say "No" to him. He says, "That's what we all want, really." Do you think this statement is accurate?
7. What is Randy's dilemma?
8. How has Ponyboy's view of the Socs changed?

Ch. 8

1. What do you suppose Dallas wants with Two-Bit's knife?
2. In what way could Darryl be a Soc?
3. Why does Ponyboy ask Cherry, "Can you see the sunset real good from the West Side?"

Ch. 9

1. Why is Darryl who is usually brighter and cleaner cut than the others getting in this fight?
2. Why does Pony think that Darryl and the others do not really belong with the Brumley boys and Tim Shepard's gang?

3. Why does Pony say that the Socs get away with a lot while the greasers get blamed for everything?
4. Ponyboy says that Darryl looked jealous and ashamed. Why would he be having those feelings at this time?
5. What does Johnny mean when he tells Ponyboy, "Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold"?

Ch. 10

1. Why does Pony conclude that he is able to take Johnny's death, but that Dallas cannot?
2. Why does Dallas pull out the gun knowing it has no bullets?
3. What technique does Ponyboy use for dealing with the deaths of his friends?
4. What is Ponyboy's greatest fear when he is unconscious? Why?

Ch. 11

1. What comes to Pony's mind when he sees Bob's picture in the yearbook?
2. Why is being able to feel "lousy" because he disappointed his father a break-through for Randy?
3. What does Darryl call him that makes Ponyboy feel good?

Ch. 12

1. Why does Pony have a difficult time concentrating when he gets back to school?
2. What does Two-Bit mean when he tells Pony "You're not like the rest of us"?
3. What does Darryl tell Pony about the details of Dallas and Johnny?
4. Why does Soda run out of the house when Sandy sends his letter back unopened?
5. What does Ponyboy finally understand about Darryl?
6. When Pony sits down to write his English theme, how is Ponyboy different from the way he is at the opening of this chapter? ... at the beginning of the novel?