

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.

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 Comprehension Questions by Chapter- Chapter One

1. Who are the socs?
2. Who are the greasers?
3. How do Ponyboy's relationships with Darry and Sodapop differ? Explain.
4. Why is the 'gang' important to Johnny?
5. Do you think Darry loves Ponyboy? Why does he treat Ponyboy harshly?

The Outsiders- Chapter Two

1. Who are the fuzz? (p. 20)
2. Are the names Ponyboy and Sodapop nicknames? Explain.
3. Who are Cherry and Marcia?
4. Why doesn't Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
5. Why does Dally look sick now (p. 33)?
6. What literary device does the author use to describe Johnny's mugging (pgs. 31-34)?
7. How did the author foreshadow that Johnny would use his knife in chapter 2?

The Outsiders-Chapter Three

1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the socs and the greasers?

2. What does Ponyboy mean on p. 39 when he says "Johnny and I understood each other without saying anything"?
3. When and how did Ponyboy's parents die?
4. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?
5. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?
6. At the end of the chapter, how does the author foreshadow that bad things are to come?

The Outsiders-Chapter Four

1. What does Ponyboy mean when he says the socs were "reeling pickled" on page 54?
2. What major event happens in this chapter?
3. What would your advice be to Johnny and Ponyboy if they'd come to you for help instead of Dally? Explain.

The Outsiders-Chapter Five

1. What part of Johnny's idea to disguise themselves is the most problematic for Ponyboy? Why?
3. Who does Johnny think is a hero (p. 76)? Do you agree with Johnny?
4. Examine Robert Frost's poem, "Nothing Gold can Stay." What do you think the poem is saying?
5. How might this apply to the characters in the novel?
6. On page 78, Johnny compares Ponyboy and his brothers to their parents. Which one of your parents are you most like? What similarities do you share?
7. What's a 'heater'? Why does Dally have one?
8. Why are the socs and the greasers going to fight in the vacant lot?
9. Who's the spy for the greasers? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

The Outsiders Chapter Six

1. Do you think Dally's parents have influenced the way he behaves and his personality? Explain.
2. Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in?
3. What "other side" of Dallas is revealed in this chapter?
4. What's your own definition of a hero? Do the three boys prove themselves to be heroes, according to your definition? Explain.
5. Why do you think Johnny wasn't scared, despite the obvious danger, on page 92?

The Outsiders-Chapter Seven

1. What qualities does Soda possess that remind Pony of a colt? (p. 101)
2. What condition is Johnny in after the fire?
3. Why would being crippled be worse for Johnny than someone else?
4. What is a juvenile delinquent (p. 107)? Find a definition on the internet, in a dictionary, or create your own based on your own knowledge.
6. Why would Two-Bit think Johnny, Dally, and Ponyboy were heroes all along; before they saved the kids?
7. What was Bob's 'real' problem, according to Randy (p.116)?
8. Why did Pony think it was better to see socs as "just guys" on p.118? What do you think he means by this?

The Outsiders Chapter Eight

1. How does what the doctor first says, on page 119, foreshadow Johnny's condition?
2. "We needed Johnny as much as he needed the gang. And for the same reason" (p.121). What do you think Pony means, and what is the reason?

3. What does Pony mean on p. 123 when he says, "we could get along without anyone but Johnny"?
4. If Darry didn't have Soda and Pony, why would he be a soc?
5. What does Cherry mean when she says Bob "wasn't just anyone" on p.129?

The Outsiders Chapter Nine

1. On the bottom of p.132, when Ponyboy asks what kind of a world it is, what comment is he making about how society judges people?
2. Why do the boys fight? Why is Pony different?
3. What is the difference between Tim Sheppard's gang and Ponyboy's gang? Explain how Pony feels this difference might give his group the upper hand?
4. What do you think Johnny's last words to Pony mean?

The Outsiders Chapter Ten

1. How does Pony's dreaming, or lying to himself, finally work in this chapter?
2. Why was Johnny's dying so difficult for Dally to handle?
3. Why do you think Dally would have wanted to die?

The Outsiders-Chapter Eleven

1. Explain why pony might rather anyone's hate than their pity (p.162)?
2. What do you think is going on with Ponyboy when he says, "Johnny didn't have anything to do with Bob's getting killed" (p.166)?

The Outsiders Chapter Twelve

1. What 'circumstances' do Ponyboy's teacher refer to? What circumstances does Ponyboy think his teacher is referring to?

2. Why doesn't Ponyboy feel scared when the socs approach him and he threatens him with a broken bottle (p.170-171)? How is this a dramatic change from the Ponyboy we have seen up until this point?
3. What does Darry mean when he says, "you don't just stop living because you lose someone" (p.173)?
4. How do we know Sandy didn't love Soda as much as he loved her?
5. Explain how Darry and Ponyboy play tug of war with Soda.
6. What do we learn about Johnny (p.178) that was so special?
7. What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?