The Outsiders

Journal Number __________

Chapters _____ - _____

Name: _______________________________________

Date: _______________________________________

Hour: _______________________________________

1. Your journal should contain the main event(s) that took place during the assigned chapters. You should always include the setting. The more detail you use – the better as these are used as your study guides.

2. Your journal should include all characters present in the assigned chapters. You need to explain who they are and why they are important to the story.

3. Your journal should include any/all examples of literary devices found in the assigned chapters. You must list the device, list the example, and explain what it means. If there are no literary devices found in the assigned chapters you need to state that there were no literary devices listed.

4. Your journal should be handwritten in paragraph format. You need to label each chapter. Do not write on the back of the paper. Skip every other line and do not write on the back. You need to use black or blue ink only. NO PENCiLS!!! Your journals should be written on loose-leaf paper (not torn out of a notebook).
Susan Eloise Hinton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1950, and has lived there most of her life. The fact that she has come to be known as S.E. Hinton speaks to the author's remarkable identification with her audience. Hinton, famous for her novels about troubled young men, tried to conceal her female identity so she would not alienate male readers.

Hinton says she began writing soon after she started reading. For many years, she concentrated on writing about cowboys and horses. She even completed two books about her favorite passion.

But the troubling clashes between greasers and Socs that Hinton witnessed during her teen years eventually forced its way into her writing. Though she was neither greaser nor Soc herself, Hinton personally knew teens from both groups. It was the beating of one of her greaser friends that inspired The Outsiders.

The Outsiders was Hinton's attempt to prove that the greasers were human, sensitive youths, deserving understanding and even respect. At the same time, Hinton wanted to show that, despite their money and social status, the Socs also faced problems.

Hinton began The Outsiders when she was fifteen. At the same time as she was composing the book, she received a D in her creative writing class. But, undiscouraged, Hinton continued writing.

To gain the necessary background for her subject, Hinton read everything she could find on juvenile delinquency. But she also explored the greasers' world firsthand. Her passport into their territory was a long jackknife she carried. Fascinated by the knife, the boys would fall into conversation with Hinton and reveal their escapades, problems, and frustrations. Hinton made a similar exploration of the Socs' world, though she often found the Socs' masks of "coolness" hard to penetrate.

The Outsiders was published when Hinton was seventeen. It was an instant bestseller and won Hinton the praise of critics and readers alike for insightful, honest depiction of teens' emotions.

The success of the book enabled Hinton to enroll at the University of Tulsa. She graduated from there with a B.S. in education in 1970. In September of that same year, she married David Inhofe, a student she had met at the university.

It was her husband who encouraged Hinton to write her next book. She completed That Was Then, This Is Now in just four months' time. The book was published in 1971, and once again Hinton was praised by readers and reviewers. Rumble Fish (1975) and Tex (1979) followed. All three novels received

continued
Hinton's World

Directions
Use the information from the Hinton biography to answer the following questions.

1. Why did Susan Eloise Hinton decide to sign her books as S.E. Hinton?  

2. What inspired Hinton to write The Outsiders?  

3. What did Hinton hope to achieve by writing The Outsiders?  

4. What research did Hinton do for The Outsiders?  

5. What were two results for Hinton of publishing The Outsiders?  

6. Give the titles of two other works Hinton has written.  

7. Check the descriptions below that are characteristics of Hinton's novels.
   _____ a. deal with troubled teens in rough environments
   _____ b. told by all-knowing narrator who sees into every character's mind
   _____ c. written in a poetic but honest, simple style
   _____ d. spotlight adults trying to cope with rebellious teens
   _____ e. depict characters who are grimly realistic and have no dreams
   _____ f. show teens trying to keep their identity while growing up

8. Given your knowledge of Hinton's background and works, come up with a specific subject and title for another novel she might write.  

The Outsiders
Anticipation/Reaction Guide

Directions: Before reading the novel, write “yes” if you agree with the statement, “no” if you disagree with the statement, and “?” if you don’t have a strong opinion about the statement. After reading, you will complete the last column, revisiting your responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes = I agree</th>
<th>No = I disagree</th>
<th>? = I don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>Statement</strong></td>
<td><strong>After Reading</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) For some kids, gangs can provide friendship and belonging.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Most people stand up for what they think is right, whether or not others agree with them.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Physical violence is never appropriate to solve a problem.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) It is more important to be a part of the “group” than to be an individual.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Teasing, humiliation, and harassment are a part of teenage life and should be accepted as a part of growing up.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Friendship and acceptance are very important to a teenager.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Once people do something really bad, they are labeled as “bad” and will never do anything good.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Many kids feel left out of social groups in school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Teenagers are too young and inexperienced to write a book.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After completing the “Before Reading” column, in small groups, have one student record the group members’ names. The recorder should then draw the following chart on a separate piece of paper, numbering from 1-9. Tally the number of “yes”, “no” and “?” responses for each question, as shown in the example below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you have collected your data, discuss those issues about which your group was divided. Make your case for your opinions, and pay attention to your classmates’ arguments. Once you have discussed all of the issues, answer the following questions on the same piece of paper.

Individual Reflection
1. Which statement triggered the most thought-provoking or interesting discussion?
2. Summarize the discussion/debate.
3. For any of the statements which were discussed, what were some of the strongest or most memorable points made by your group members?
4. How did you feel when a group member disagreed with the way you feel about an issue?
Standards Focus: Elements of the Novel and Vocabulary

A novel is a type of literary work which is lengthy (generally between 100-500 pages), and uses all of the elements of storytelling: **plot, climax, characters, setting, point of view, and theme**. Novels usually have several **conflicts** involving several main characters, and more than one setting. As you read *The Outsiders*, pay attention to each of the characteristics of a novel, and see how well the book fits into the novel format.

- **Plot** - the related series of events that make up a story
- **Climax** - *(part of the plot)* the turning point of the story; emotional high point for the character
- **Conflict** - the struggle(s) between opposing forces, usually characters
- **Character** - the individuals involved in the action of the story
- **Setting** - the time and place, or where and when, the action occurs
- **Point of View** - the viewpoint from which a story is told
- **Theme** - the main idea behind a literary work; the “message” in the story

**Vocabulary from the Novel**

*Directions:* Below is a list of the vocabulary words from each chapter of the novel. Look up the definitions for each word, and keep your list for use with vocabulary worksheets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1</th>
<th>Chapter 2</th>
<th>Chapter 3</th>
<th>Chapter 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bawl</td>
<td>incredulous</td>
<td>aloofness</td>
<td>apprehensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disgrace</td>
<td>roguishly</td>
<td>cunning</td>
<td>contemptuously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>muttered</td>
<td>scatterbrained</td>
<td>gallantly</td>
<td>defiance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reckless</td>
<td>scowled</td>
<td>ornery</td>
<td>reformatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unfathomable</td>
<td>winced</td>
<td>quivering</td>
<td>unceasingly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 5</th>
<th>Chapter 6</th>
<th>Chapter 7</th>
<th>Chapter 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eluded</td>
<td>bewilderment</td>
<td>drawled</td>
<td>divert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groggy</td>
<td>defeated</td>
<td>exploits</td>
<td>doggedly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imploringly</td>
<td>hysterics</td>
<td>hauled</td>
<td>hesitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indignant</td>
<td>surveyed</td>
<td>mimicking</td>
<td>numbly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reluctantly</td>
<td>tangle</td>
<td>recurring</td>
<td>resemblance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 9</th>
<th>Chapter 10</th>
<th>Chapter 11</th>
<th>Chapter 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affectionately</td>
<td>clad</td>
<td>cocky</td>
<td>acquitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agony</td>
<td>clenched</td>
<td>idolized</td>
<td>corny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mortal</td>
<td>delirious</td>
<td>liable</td>
<td>pained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stifled</td>
<td>dumbfounded</td>
<td>remark</td>
<td>pained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superiority</td>
<td>stupor</td>
<td>vaguely</td>
<td>vast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vocabulary Review: Word Search
Chapters 1-3

Directions: Find the vocabulary words from Chapters 1-3 in the word search below. Words are placed vertically, horizontally, backwards, forwards and diagonally. Once you have found all the words, on a separate piece of paper, write a sentence for each of the vocabulary words.

ALOOFNESS
BAWL
CUNNING
DISGRACE
GALLANTLY
INCREDOULOUS
MUTTERED
ORNERY
QUIVERING
RECKLESS
ROGUISHLY
SCATTERBRAINED
SCOWLED
UNFATHOMABLE
WINCED
Making Head or Tail of Idioms

*The Outsiders* is written in an informal style that imitates the everyday speech of the narrator, Ponyboy. The text is peppered with slang expressions and *idioms* that are typically found in spoken language.

An idiom is like a coded message. It communicates a special meaning to those who know the "code." Most English-speaking people know that when Dally describes Ponyboy as "always having his nose in a book," he merely means Pony reads a lot.

But imagine the confusion such a phrase might cause a reader new to our culture. Without an understanding of our idioms, the phrase might lead that reader to believe Ponyboy has a strange habit indeed.

**Directions**
Read each sentence. Then write the idiom and its decoded meaning on the lines below.

1. Unlike Ponyboy, Soda never cracked a book or went to the movies.
   
   **Idiom** ____________________________________
   
   **Decoded meaning** ____________________________________

2. After Soda's teasing remark, Darry stared at him a moment and then cracked a grin.
   
   **Idiom** ____________________________________
   
   **Decoded meaning** ____________________________________

3. Two-Bit just couldn't keep his mouth shut and always had to get his two-bits worth in.
   
   **Idiom** ____________________________________
   
   **Decoded meaning** ____________________________________

4. Ever since seeing Ponyboy with a switchblade, the girl had looked down on him.
   
   **Idiom** ____________________________________
   
   **Decoded meaning** ____________________________________

5. Cherry smiled softly at Johnny, showing that she had sized him up right.
   
   **Idiom** ____________________________________
   
   **Decoded meaning** ____________________________________

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Comprehension Check
Chapters 1-3

1. What happened to Darry and Ponyboy's parents? ____________________________________________________________________________

2. How does Ponyboy feel when he is being followed? Why? What are the signs he exhibits that tell you this is how he feels? ____________________________________________________________________________

3. Why does Ponyboy go to the movies alone? _______________________________________________________________________

4. Where do Steve and Soda work? _______________________________________________________________________

5. How did Two-Bit get his nickname? What is his real name? _______________________________________________________________________

6. How do Ponyboy, Soda and Darry feel about each other? _______________________________________________________________________

7. Why does Dally use vulgar and abrasive language with the girls at the movies? _______________________________________________________________________

8. How do the girls respond to the insults? _______________________________________________________________________

9. Why is Ponyboy uncomfortable about it? _______________________________________________________________________

10. Why are the girls alone and without a car? _______________________________________________________________________

11. What rule do the Greasers follow, besides "stick together"? _______________________________________________________________________

12. Describe the attack on Johnny. _______________________________________________________________________

13. What does Cherry tell Ponyboy about the Socs? _______________________________________________________________________

14. Why doesn't Darry call the police when Ponyboy gets home late? _______________________________________________________________________

15. Why do Ponyboy and Johnny run away? _______________________________________________________________________

16. Why is Darry such an angry person? _______________________________________________________________________

©2005 Secondary Solutions 10C The Outsiders
Just Picture It!

In the opening chapters of *The Outsiders*, Hinton introduces a number of characters. It is important to distinguish these characters from the start and recognize their relationships to each other. Often character relationships can be better understood when shown on a simple visual diagram.

**Directions**
Read the descriptions below. Match each description with a character listed in the box and write the character’s name on the blank.

- a. hardworking head of the house
- b. happy-go-lucky and handsome
- c. smart but no common sense
- d. toughest and meanest of the gang
- e. Soda’s best friend
- f. pet of the gang
- g. wisecracker and shoplifter

**Directions**
Now transfer the names you wrote on the previous blanks to the corresponding blanks on the diagram below. For example, the name written on blank a should be written on blank a in the diagram.

Once you complete the diagram, use it to answer the questions.

**Character Relationship Diagram**