



This assignment will count for 10% of your MP 1 Grade for Reading this year

NPMS: Summer Reading, Grade 8

Summer of 2011

The following six projects are to be completed before the first day of school. Please submit this completed packet to your English teacher when he/she asks for it in September. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy reading The Outsiders!

All writing assignments are to be typed in 12-point Times New Roman Font with one inch margins, or printed neatly by hand on white lined paper.

1. Literary Element Characterization

Writing Activity

Look over the list of important characters from the Outsiders:

Ponyboy Curtis

Steve Randle

Sodapop Curtis

Darry Curtis

Two-Bit Matthews

Dallas Winston

Which one character would you want to be friends with and why? Describe in detail why that particular character would make a good friend. Please describe what you feel that you have in common with the character and the type of activities that you would do together.

2. Journal Writing

Imagine that you are the character Cherry in the novel. Write a journal entry describing your thoughts, feelings, etc. the night that you spent with Ponyboy and Johnny. This entry must be a minimum of one typed page.

3. In Hiding

Imagine that like Johnny and Ponyboy, you have to go into hiding. Make a list of ten things that you would want to have with you if forced into hiding. Then describe how each item would be useful to you. Describe in a detailed journal entry how you would spend your day in the "hideout".

4. Cover That Story!

An event like the fire in the church would be reported by local newspapers and television stations. Imagine you are a reporter covering this story and write an article for your town's online newspaper. Be sure to include the **who, what, when, where and why** of the fire.

5. You be the Judge!

Imagine that you are a judge who must decide the fate of Ponyboy.

- First, you must decide whether he should be charged with Manslaughter or Murder.
- Using the following definitions of Murder and Manslaughter, decide what punishment, if any should be given to Ponyboy.
- Explain your verdict, and why you chose that specific length of sentence, or lack of sentence.

Manslaughter- The unlawful killing of another person without planning it out.

If you decide that the crime was manslaughter, you must think about if it was **Voluntary** or **Involuntary Manslaughter**. The main difference between the two is that:

***Voluntary Manslaughter** requires intent to kill or cause serious bodily harm.*

Involuntary Manslaughter does not.

Choose a sentence between 1-10 years in prison.

Murder-The unlawful killing of another human being without justification or excuse.

Choose a sentence between 10-25 years in prison.

5. What's your take?

Respond to any four of the following questions/ Sentence Starters

Make Sure each response is a minimum of six sentences.

1. How are you like any one of the characters in the novel, or how are you different?
2. Did you find the characters in the novel realistic? Why or why not?
3. Which character did you identify with the most? The Least? Why?
4. Who else would you like to read this novel? Why?
5. If you had the chance, what questions would you like to ask the author about the novel?
6. I did not think it was fair when...
7. I would like to see....
8. I wonder....
9. I think that Ponyboy learned that ...
- 10.If I could ask any character a question, I would ask

Rubric for *The Outsiders*

Content	25%
Organization	25%
Complete and Thorough Responses	25%
Mechanics and Organization	25%

97-100%	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
0-59%	F

Sample Character Traits

able	depressed	impatient	safe
active	determined	impolite	satisfied
adventurous	discouraged	inconsiderate	scared
affectionate	dishonest	independent	secretive
afraid	disrespectful	industrious	selfish
alert	doubtful	innocent	serious
ambitious	dull	intelligent	sharp
angry	dutiful	jealous	short
annoyed	eager	kindly	shy
anxious	easygoing	lazy	silly
apologetic	efficient	leader	skillful
arrogant	embarrassed	lively	sly
attentive	encouraging	lonely	smart
average	energetic	loving	sneaky
bad	evil	loyal	sorry
blue	excited	lucky	spoiled
bold	expert	mature	stingy
bored	fair	mean	strange
bossy	faithful	messy	strict
brainy	fearless	miserable	stubborn
brave	fierce	mysterious	sweet
bright	foolish	naughty	talented
brilliant	fortunate	nervous	tall
busy	foul	nice	thankful
calm	fresh	noisy	thoughtful
careful	friendly	obedient	thoughtless
careless	frustrated	obnoxious	tired
cautious	funny	old	tolerant
charming	gentle	peaceful	touchy
cheerful	giving	picky	trusting
childish	glamorous	pleasant	trustworthy
clever	gloomy	polite	unfriendly
clumsy	good	poor	unhappy
coarse	graceful	popular	upset
concerned	grateful	positive	useful
confident	greedy	precise	warm
confused	grouchy	proper	weak
considerate	grumpy	proud	wicked
cooperative	guilty	quick	wise
courageous	happy	quiet	worried
cowardly	harsh	rational	wrong
cross	hateful	reliable	young
cruel	healthy	religious	
curious	helpful	responsible	
dangerous	honest	restless	
daring	hopeful	rich	
dark	hopeless	rough	
decisive	humorous	rowdy	
demanding	ignorant	rude	
dependable	imaginative	sad	