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Young Adult Literature

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January 8, 2020

### *The Outsiders* Book Review

*The Outsiders*, a revolutionary book in the history of Young Adult literature. In 1967, *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, was first published by The Viking Press in New York. *The Outsiders* is a book based on similar events and emotions that took place in the author's life. It was so compelling to its audience, mostly a teenage audience, that it became one of the first known books to launch the Young Adult genre. It has connected personally with many young teenagers over the years with its relatable emotions and storytelling, through the true experience of the author.

Over the years, *The Outsiders* has gained significant respect and love from the generations that have read it. More specifically, through teenagers that have read it, including me. I believe this is in part due to the fact that all the main characters are in fact teenagers. In the book, you see the world through the perspective of Ponyboy. A sixteen-year-old boy who tries to survive with the violent fights between the poor (greasers) and wealthy (Socs) social classes of the city, as well as the struggles in his own personal life. When his friend ends up killing a Soc his entire world starts to crumble around him. His adventure through the rest of the story is thrilling and enticing with feelings that make the reader wanting more. It's no wonder that teens of all generations have had this novel be their entryway to the Young Adult genre, and to more great and exciting books just like it.

One big reason that this book was so loved by teens is because the author understood what it was like being a teenager, since she was an actual teenager. While there were books before hand that were written for teenagers, but were written by adults who didn't actually understand the real problems, events, and experiences faced by teens. Many of the ideas that she used for *The Outsiders* came from her own experiences. For example, at the start of the novel, Ponyboy gets jumped by a few Socs. This scenario actually happened to one of the authors friends at the time. He was walking, and he got jumped by a few guys. This is the event which actually encouraged Hinton to start writing the novel in the first place. She was also friends with both greasers and Socs, so she knows second hand the troubles and hardships that they go through.

*The Outsiders* has connected across the different generations of teenagers with its active story and its emotions which match the emotions of the present teenager, as well as adding to the real feeling of it from being written by an actual teenager at the time who understood and lived through the same things that other teens had. The author uses her own experiences to write a story, in doing so many of the readers feel they can relate to the book's themes and emotions. I enjoyed the book very well and would read it over and over again if I had the time, and I know that other teens like me have also enjoyed it over the years. This book is a wonderful start to get into the Young Adult genre and go on to read more of S.E. Hinton's books, or read other books with the same or more drama and adventure.