3. Major Themes

A. Class Conflict – The fight between rich and poor

• The Greasers come from the poor East Side of town, while the Socs come from the wealthier West Side
At the beginning of the novel, Ponyboy is quick to point out all of the differences between the Greasers and the Socs. Throughout the novel, though, he questions if they are so different after all.
B. Friendship and Loyalty

• In some ways, Ponyboy is almost an “outsider” within “the outsiders.” He’s younger, he does well in school, he likes reading, he’s a bit of a loner.
Thanks to his interactions with Johnny Cade, his brothers, and the other members of his group (even Dallas!), Ponyboy learns about the power of friendship and loyalty.
C. What is a Hero?

• As you read, ask yourself: “Who is the hero in “The Outsiders?”

D. Coming-of-Age

• Even though the story of “The Outsiders” takes place over a relatively short period of time, Ponyboy does a lot of growing up by the end of the novel.
• We have already looked at teen culture. But there is more that separates teenagers from adults than just the clothes they wear, the music they listen to, the movies they watch, and the way they talk, isn’t there? Maybe, maybe not.....
Coming-of-Age Movies

1. *Dead Poets Society*
   - Robin Williams
2. *Stand By Me*
   - Quote: 
     - "If I could only have one food to eat for the rest of my life?"
     - "That's easy. Pez. Cherry flavor Pez. No question about it."
3. *American Graffiti*
   - From Director George Lucas
Coming-of-Age Movies

- Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- Dazed and Confused
- Superbad
John Green on teenagers

“[Teenagers] are in the area of conflict between the person that they are, the one they want to be and the one they might be.”
• What does it mean to come into adulthood? What do you have to do to get there? How will you know when you’ve gotten there?