

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?”
- Is it Ponyboy? Is it Johnny? Is it Dallas? Is it somebody else?



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



The image displays three movie posters side-by-side on a red background. The first poster on the left is for 'Dead Poets Society', featuring Robin Williams and a group of boys in a forest. The middle poster is for 'Stand by Me', showing a landscape with mountains and a lake, with a quote from the film. The third poster on the right is for 'American Graffiti', featuring a collage of characters and cars, with the Universal 100th Anniversary logo at the top.

ROBIN WILLIAMS

DEAD
POETS
SOCIETY

"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."

STAND BY ME

A new film by Rob Reiner.

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS AN ACT II PRODUCTION
A ROB REINER FILM "STAND BY ME" CASTING BY WIL WHEATON RIVER PHOENIX
COREY FELDMAN JERRY O'CONNELL KIEFER SASTHERLAND
JACK NITZSCHE COSTUME DESIGNER THOMAS OLL KATH
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS RAYMOND D. GIDRON PRODUCED BY BRUCE A. EVANS
SCREENPLAY BY BRUCE A. EVANS BASED UPON THE STORY BY STEPHEN KING
DIRECTED BY ROB REINER

UNIVERSAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

FROM DIRECTOR GEORGE LUCAS

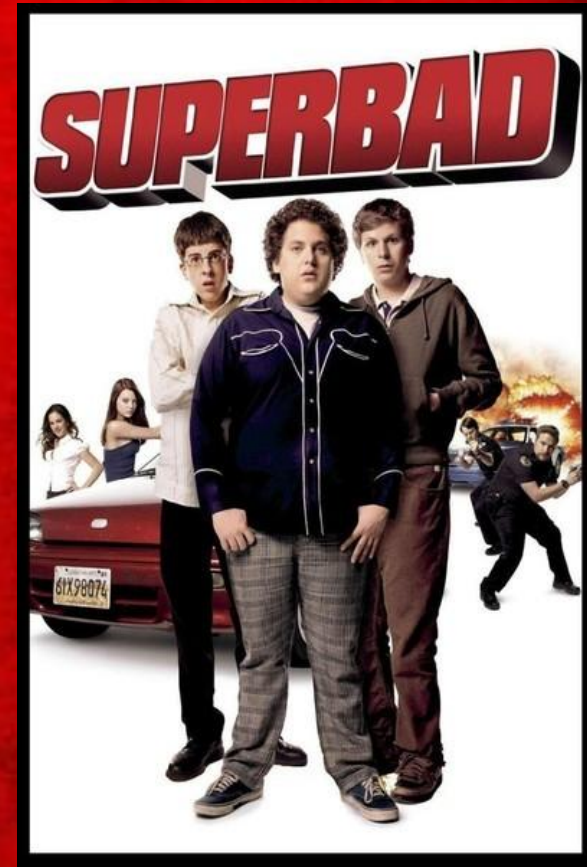
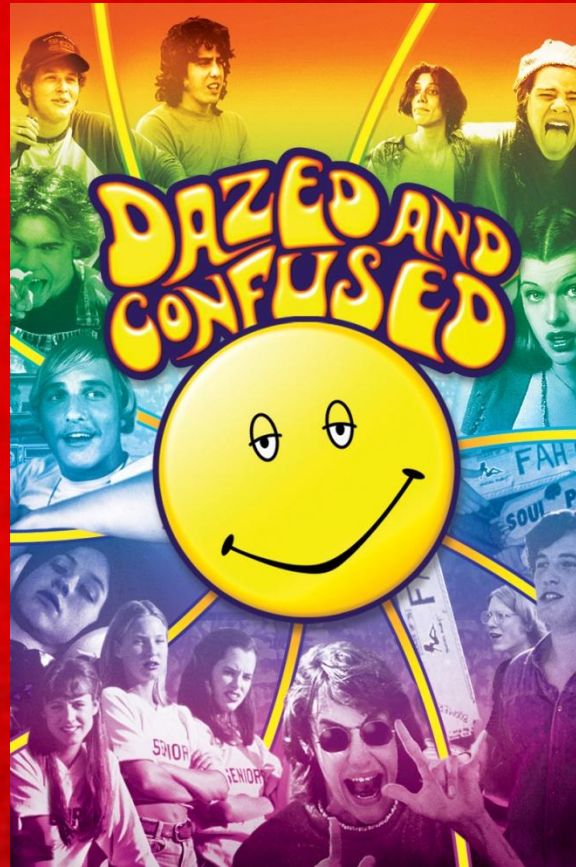
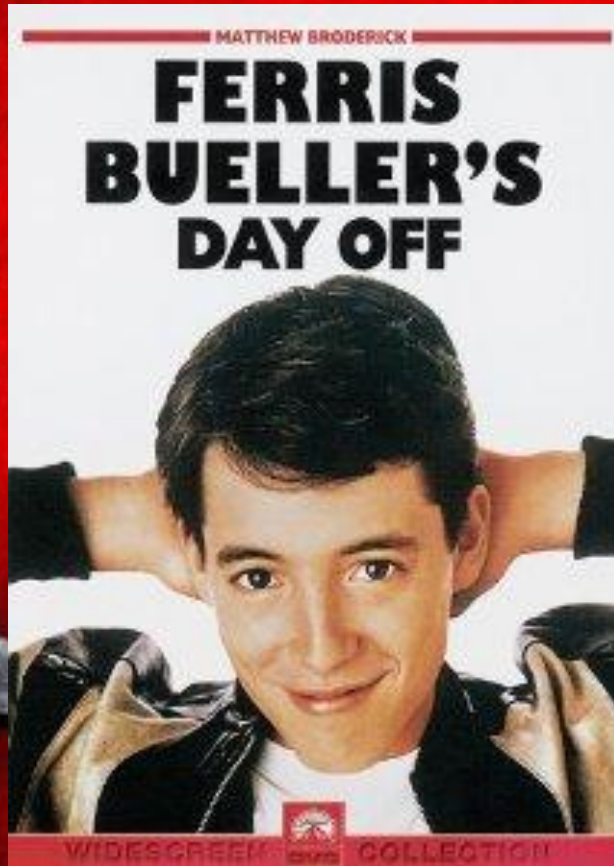
American
Graffiti

CRUISING

AMERICAN GRAFFITI | 1973



Coming-of-Age Movies



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?

