The Outsiders

1. The Author
2. 1960’s culture
3. Major themes
4. Slang in the novel
1. The Author

- S.E. Hinton (Susan Eloise) was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1950
• “The Outsiders” was Hinton’s first novel
• She began writing the novel when she was only 15 years old and it was published when she was just 17 years old!
S.E. Hinton on writing

“The major influence on my writing has been my reading. I read everything, including cereal boxes and coffee labels. Reading taught me sentence structure, paragraphing, and how to build a chapter.”
S.E. Hinton on “The Outsiders”

• Hinton took her inspiration for the novel from a real-life event that happened to a friend of hers in high school.
“This made me mad and I just went home and started pounding out a story about this boy who was beaten up while he was walking home from the movies.”
“Ponyboy’s gang was inspired by a true-life gang, the members of which were very dear to me. Later, all the gang members I hung out with were sure they were in the book — but they aren’t.”
2. 1960’s Culture

• The 1960’s, and especially the late 1960’s, was a time of huge social change and upheaval in North American culture.
• The 1960’s saw the beginning of teen culture

• “The Outsiders” is considered the first realistic young adult novel
“Youthquake” & Hippies

• Sex, drugs, rock n’ roll, political protests, long hair, psychedelia, opposing “the man”
Your parents? Grand-parents?
The Vietnam War

A “teen” war?
Vietnam War Protests
1960’s Music

The Who

The Doors

Jim Morrison
1960s Cars

Shelby Mustang
1967 Mustang
1967 Chevy Corvair
Hippie Girl
“Soc” girls
The Madras Shirt

“Soc” boy
“Greaser” fashion