“The Outsiders” Wrap-Up

• Phew....we made it!  But what did we learn?

• Into your “Outsiders” groups one last time, please...
5 Themes to Explore

i) Teen Culture in the 1960’s

ii) Heroes in “The Outsiders:” Who and Why?

iii) Friendship & Loyalty

iv) Coming of Age

v) Conflict
2 Questions to ask:

a) What does the novel teach us about this theme?

b) What lessons about this theme can we apply to our own lives?
i) Teen Culture in the 1960’s

• “The Outsiders” was written by a teenager, about teenagers, and for teenagers

• This makes it the first of its kind
Teenagers in 1967 may have expressed themselves differently than teenagers today, but they experienced many of the same challenges that teenagers face today.
• Remember what John Green said: “[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.”
ii) Heroes in “The Outsiders”

• Really, it is up to you to decide who the real hero is in the novel. Your job is to be able to clearly explain why you think a particular character is the hero. There is no right or wrong answer, but there are strong and weak arguments!
iii) Friendship & Loyalty

• All of the main characters in “The Outsiders” are fiercely loyal
• In their challenging world, friendship is everything
• Is it so different for you?
• How far should a person allow loyalty to steer their actions?
iv) Coming of Age

• The events of “The Outsiders” change Ponyboy drastically. He grows up a lot in a short amount of time.

• We can’t always control the events in our lives, but for better or for worse they can have a huge impact on who we become.

• There is always time to change!
v) Conflict

- As human beings, we have a tendency to organize ourselves into groups (both big and small) and there can be conflict between groups.

- Conflict is often the result of “othering,” or focusing too much on differences between people instead of similarities.
• We should all strive to be more like Ponyboy towards the end of the novel and learn to see people as “just guys” (or girls!) instead of as “socs,” “greasers,” etc.

• Embrace diversity!