



Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading

Required Novel: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

Required Assignment: Read *The Outsiders* and complete the graphic organizers (see attachments). Students should be prepared to discuss, start a paper, and/or be tested over the novel, *The Outsiders* during the first week of school.

The purpose of the HCA Summer Reading Program is to engage students in classic and modern literature that encourages and promotes a life-long interest in reading for both purpose and enjoyment. Each novel is chosen on the basis of the thematic connection to the first units studied in each grade level.

In middle school, students will place emphasis on the literary elements used in our daily literature. These elements provide insight and understanding that will further a student's comprehension of the novels they read and author's purpose for writing. One component that allows for this understanding is the use of graphic organizers.

Graphic organizers are diagrams, foldables, and/or cut & paste worksheets that assist with breaking down story information including literary devices and text structure. These organizers allow students to better comprehend the stories or novels they read and actively engage themselves in classroom discussions.

Directions: Complete the two (attached) graphic organizers.

1. PLOT DIAGRAM: While reading *The Outsiders*, complete the **plot diagram** worksheet that highlights the five major plot components and the author's theme. Students will need to include **three** examples for **symbolism**, **foreshadowing**, and **irony**. Please use an additional sheet of paper, if necessary.

2. CHARACTER ANALYSIS: Describe the (main) **protagonist** in *The Outsiders* by considering his thoughts, words, feelings, choices, and actions. Think of his personality traits and his role in the story when completing the worksheet on **character analysis**.

DIRECTIONS: On a separate piece of paper, create a character analysis for one of the main characters from *THE OUTSIDERS*. Make a chart or draw a picture that includes the character's traits, his/her role in the book, along with details to explain how the character develops throughout the book. Include page numbers to support your descriptions. For ideas to creating a "character analysis", research the topic on google or Pinterest. BE CREATIVE!

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

1.) Personality Traits of the Character

When you write a character analysis, you will be expected to describe a character's personality. You will receive clues about a character's personality through his or her:

- Words
- Actions
- Reactions
- Feelings
- Movements
- Thoughts
- Mannerisms

2.) Character Role

When you write a character analysis, you must also define each character's role

Protagonist: The protagonist of a story is often called the main character. The plot revolves around the protagonist. There may be more than one main character.

Antagonist: The antagonist is the character who represents a challenge or an obstacle to the protagonist in a story. In some stories, the antagonist is not a person!

3.) Character Development (Growth and Change)

When you are asked to write a character analysis, you will be expected to explain how a character changes and grows. Most characters go through changes as a story unfolds.

Static: A static character never changes. A loud, obnoxious "background" character who remains the same throughout the story is static. A boring character who is never changed by events is also static.

Dynamic: Unlike a static character, a dynamic character does change and grow as the story unfolds. Dynamic characters respond to events and experience a change in attitude or outlook.

Flat Character: A flat character has one or two personality traits that don't change. The flat character can play a major or a minor role.

Round Character: A round character has many complex traits-and those traits develop and change in a story. A round character will seem more real than a flat character, because people are complex!

Stock or Stereotype Character: A character who represents a stereotype is a stock character. These characters exist to maintain widespread belief in "types," such as hot-tempered redheads, stingy businessmen and absent-minded professors.

Plot Diagram for _____

9. _____
8. _____
7. _____
6. _____
5. _____
4. _____
3. _____
2. _____
1. _____

Rising Action →

Falling Action ←

Climax:

10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____

Resolution:

Exposition

- Protagonist: _____
- Antagonist: _____
- Setting – Time: _____
- Setting – Place: _____
- Internal Conflict: _____
- External Conflict: _____

Author's Theme: _____

Symbolism: _____

Foreshadowing: _____

Irony: _____

Name _____