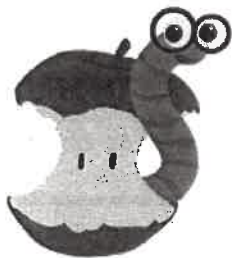


A Teaching Unit For The Outsiders

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ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

The Outsiders

Chapter 1

Allusion: A reference to a well-known person, event, character or work from history or literature.

There is an allusion to Paul Newman on the first page of chapter one. If you do not know who Paul Newman was, use an Internet search engine to find out. Write a few things that you find out about him in the box below.

There is an allusion to Will Rogers as well. Research Will Rogers, and write what you learned about him in the box below.

What piece of literature does the author allude to in this chapter?

Chapter Questions

1. From what point of view is this story told?
2. What happened to Ponyboy's parents?
3. What do we know about Ponyboy so far?

A character sketch is a writer's way to describe characters in a way that makes them believable and realistic. It is a way to put characters on paper with words. In a character sketch, a person's physical characteristics are described and also other "telling" details that capture who the person really is. It may include his/her mannerisms, little things that they do, or what they believe. In this chapter, we are introduced to Ponyboy, his brothers, and other members of the "greasers." In the following chart, you will take a look at each of these characters.

Character	Relation to Ponyboy	Physical description	Other things revealed about this character
Darry			
Sodapop			
Steve Randle			
Two-Bit Mathews			
Dallas Winston - Dally			
Johnny Cade			

Write a short character sketch for yourself or make up your own character. Just like the ones included in this chapter, give a physical description as well as personality traits or other insights.

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Chapter 2

A flashback occurs when a story is interrupted for a character to remember something that has happened in the past.

External Conflict – a character struggles with an outside force. It is evident early on in this book that *The Outsiders* is driven by a social class conflict.

GREASERS

POOR

REBELIOUS

VS.

SOCS

RICH

FACELESS, CRUEL

Because of the point of view of the story, we see the Socs as Ponyboy does. So far, the Socs are faceless and cruel. That is until we meet Cherry Valance. She seems sympathetic and surprises Ponyboy with some of the things that she says. What does Ponyboy, along with the reader, learn from Cherry?

In the following box, summarize the flashback involving Johnny.

Authors use flashbacks so that readers can learn about characters or about past events. What do we learn from this flashback?

What does Johnny's reaction to the fight illustrate?

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Chapter 3

At the beginning of this chapter, we see Pony boy beginning to think that there are some similarities between the Socs and the Greasers. He says, "...there was a basic sameness."(page 35)

Cherry, seems to disagree, however and sums things up by saying the following about the Socs:

- Socs are more sophisticated to the point of not feeling anything.
- Nothing is real for the Socs.
- They don't mean half of what they say.
- They are in a rat race – always going and going and searching for more.

Studying this list, what are some words that could describe the Socs? Write the words in the box below.

"That's why we're separated," I said. "It's not money, it's feeling – you don't feel anything and we feel too violently."

This is how Ponyboy sums up the differences between the Greasers and the Socs. Respond to this comment. What do you think he means?

Find another passage in this chapter that either suggests that the Greasers are different from the Socs or that shows that they are not as different as they think. Write the passage and page number in the box below.

A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. Our nation's flag is a symbol for freedom. In literature, symbolism combines the literal and the abstract. Some symbols are generic, such as winter represents death. Other symbols are specific to an individual work of literature. In the Outsiders, the reader can consider several things symbolic. Let's take a look at some of the things that can be symbolic in chapter three. Provide an explanation for each.

Things in book that could be symbols	Symbolism	Explanation
Mickey Mouse	innocence, loss – having what is precious taken away	
hair	identity, pride	
switchblade	strength, power	
Blue Mustang	upper-class, economic divide	
rings on Soc's hand	wealth	
the country	freedom, escape from social "rules"	

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Chapter 4

Respond

This chapter is deep. Things take a serious turn for Johnny and Ponyboy. Respond to each of the following passages taken from chapter four. Write your thoughts, opinions, and/or predictions.

About Dally – *“The fight for self-preservation had hardened him beyond caring.”* (page 54)

Johnny, who wouldn't hurt a living thing on purpose, had taken a human life.(56)

So we'd have to be hermits for the rest of our lives, and never see anyone but Dally. (59)

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Chapter 5

Setting is a combination of the time of day, the place where the scene occurs, the geographic location, and the period of history.

Study the following chart to understand what setting may include.

Place	Time	Environment
The physical location In the country, state, or city? Mountains? Lake? Forest? Beach? Under a bridge?	Calendar and clock times- day, month, year? Season? Past, present, future?	What are the details in the surroundings? What else is going on around the characters? Is it crowded? Isolated? Is the wind blowing? What is the weather like?

Look back in chapter five at the setting. Johnny and Ponyboy are now at a church, but there is more to the setting than that. In the box below, list details that relate to the setting provided throughout the chapter. Then, tell whether the details relate to the place, the time, or the environment. One has been done for you.

Detail	Place? Time? Environment?
...dry leaves outside (page 61)	Environment, time - fall

Look back toward the end of this chapter to the part where Ponyboy recites the poem to Johnny. Reread the passage before the poem that describes the sun rise.

After listening to the poem, Johnny says, *"I never noticed colors and clouds and stuff until you kept reminding me about them. It seems like they were never there before."*

At this point in the book, how is the setting affecting the characters?

*"Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay."*

Ponyboy says that he was trying to find the meaning in the poem, but it "eluded" him. Let's find the meaning ourselves.

To understand a poem, you must take it line by line and figure it out. Use these guided questions to help you figure out the meaning.

Line 1 – What could "nature's first green" be?

Why is this "first green" gold?

Line 2 – Who is the "her" in this line?

What is a hue?

Why could this first hue be hard to hold?

Line 3 – What does it mean by "early" leaf?

Line 4 – So this line means it is only a flower for how long?

Line 5 - What does the word subsides mean?

So what is this line saying?

Line 6 – This line has an allusion to the Garden of Eden in the Bible. How did Eden sink to grief?

Line 7 - What does dawn turn into?

Line 8 – Now, why can nothing gold stay?

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Chapter 6

No, it wasn't Cherry the Soc who was helping us, it was Cherry the dreamer who watched sunsets and couldn't stand fights.

What is the significance of this passage?

Foreshadowing is a literary device that provides a clue or a hint of what is to come. Sometimes, good foreshadowing is overlooked until something takes place.

Read the passage pulled from chapter three.

I saw Johnny's cigarette glowing in the dark and wondered vaguely what it was like inside a burning ember...

Again in this chapter we see the ember mentioned as Ponyboy thinks back to this thought about a burning ember.

The cinders and embers began falling on us, stinging and smarting like ants. Suddenly, in the red glow, and the haze, I remembered wondering what it was like in a burning ember, and I thought: Now I know, it's a red hell. Why aren't I scared? (page 82)

Besides foreshadowing, what else could be the importance of the ember?

When Jerry, the man who rides in the ambulance with Ponyboy, doesn't know what a greaser is, this shows _____.

- a. that Jerry is too old to know anything
- b. that to the outside world, the greaser identity is meaningless
- c. that the ambulance was too loud for Jerry to hear
- d. that Jerry is a Soc

An epiphany is a term in literary criticism for a sudden realization--a flash of recognition in which someone or something is seen in a new light. What is Ponyboy's epiphany in this chapter? How does the climax in plot (the church fire) cause this epiphany?

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Writing Opportunity

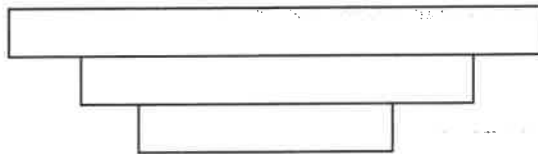
Name _____

Date _____

In this chapter, Johnny and Ponyboy make daring rescues. They are even called heroes. Write a news report of the event. Be sure to include quotes (ones you make up, not quotes from the book) from characters. For example, in your article, you may say, a local witness who rode to the hospital in the ambulance with Ponyboy said, "Those boys were real heroes. I thought they may have been angels in disguise."

Read the following information on writing a news report before you start.

- A news report is based on facts. Do not include your opinions.
- The first paragraph contains the most important information: Who? What? When? Where? Why? And How?
- It is arranged in an "inverted pyramid" style:



This means that facts are arranged from most important to least important. It allows you to see a lot of information quickly in the first couple of paragraphs. The least important facts are near the end.

Answer these questions in the lead of your news report:

1. Who is it about?
2. What happened?
3. When did it happen?
4. Where did it happen?
5. Why did it happen?
6. How did it happen?

Remember, not everyone knows what the reader knows. Write only what would appear in the Newspaper. Also, keep it true to the time period. You would not need to say that the report was all over social media because there was no such thing as social media or even the Internet during the time this story takes place

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Newspaper Article Rubric

Name: _____

Date: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Points Earned
Article based on the rescue of children from church fire	10	
Article gives facts and not opinions	15	
Article tells: Who _____ What _____ When _____ Why _____ Where _____	50	
Organized, article "makes sense"	15	
Neat, well written with few (if any) spelling or grammatical errors	10	
Bonus: pictures, made to look like a "real" newspaper article, dateline/byline used correctly	10	
TOTAL	110	

Theme: The story's central message; a life lesson
Some things to remember about theme are as follows:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember the most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel/passage.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- There can be more than one theme in a novel.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the novel/passage.

Read the following passage from the end of chapter seven.

Socs were just guys after all. Things were rough all over, but it was better that way. That way you could tell the other guy was human too.

Based on the actions in the novel so far, this passage, and the entire compelling conversation in this chapter between Randy and Ponyboy, what do you think one of the main themes of this novel is?

Complete the following chart to show how this theme relates to several of the characters.

Character	How this theme fits this character
Johnny	
Dally	
Randy	
Darry	
Cherry	

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Chapter 8

Go back and find the passage where Johnny is talking about dying. It begins, *"I don't want to die now. It ain't long enough. Sixteen years ain't long enough..."*

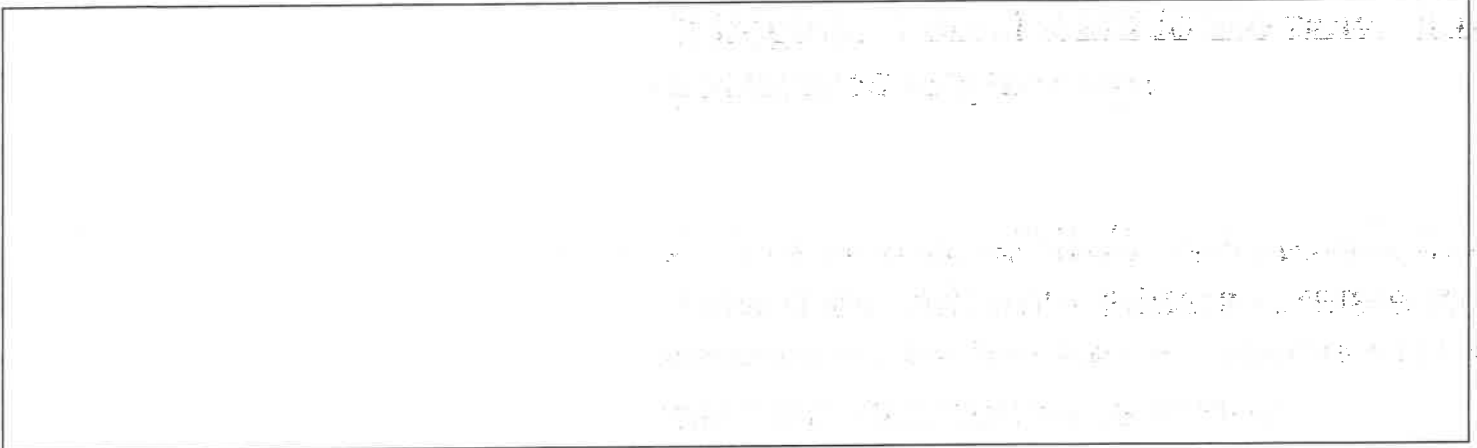
Return to chapter five. Reread the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay". How does Johnny's situation relate to this poem? Write your answer in the box below. Try writing your own poem about Johnny and the situation he is in now.

Find a passage that is used as foreshadowing in this chapter. Write it on the line below. Foreshadowing creates suspense. After finding the foreshadowing, what do you predict will happen?

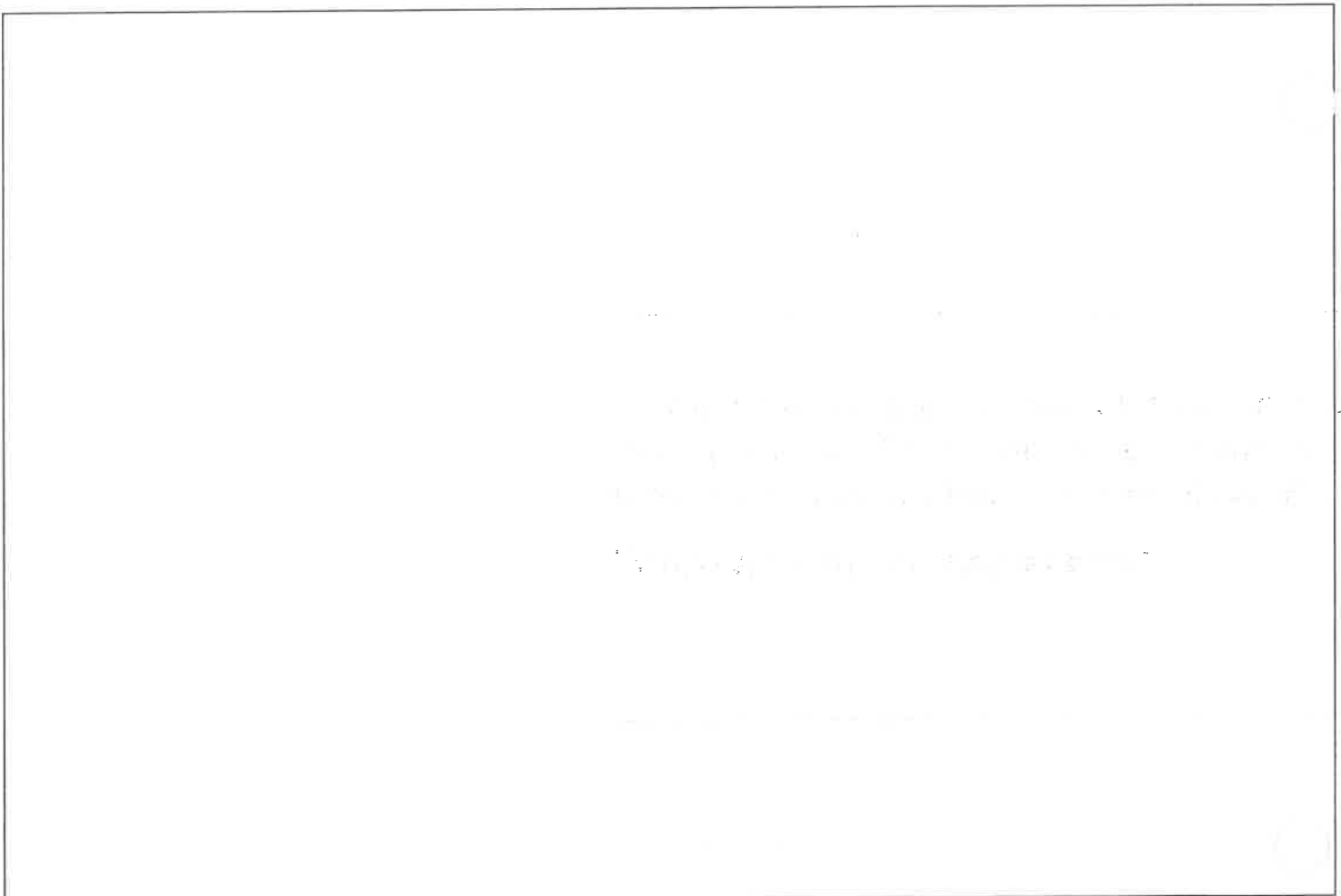
Foreshadowing in chapter eight:

My prediction

Reread the last page of chapter eight. Again the sunset is mentioned. Why do you think the author writes about the sunset again? How do these lines about the sunset reveal the changes in Ponyboy's thoughts about the Socs and the Greasers?



In the box below, draw a picture that depicts the true meaning of the sunset on the West Side and the East Side. You may use words in your picture as well. Make sure you show the symbolic meaning, and not just the literal meaning. Be creative as you portray this important aspect of this novel.



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Chapter 9

Often it is human nature for someone to do something just because a group is doing it, regardless of the consequences. It is obvious in this chapter that Ponyboy has an inward struggle about the “rumble”. He goes along with it, however, because the rest of the greasers do.

Create a top ten list stating reasons people should not follow the crowd. Think about some of the “truths” and realizations that Ponyboy has had over the course of this novel. You may use some of these in your list.

Top 10 Reasons NOT to Follow the Crowd

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Masks – We all wear them; maybe not real masks, but all of us at time hide who we really are. During the “rumble”, what does Ponyboy realize about the “masks” that the Greasers and the Socs wear?

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Epitaph

Name: _____ Date: _____

An epitaph is a short, rhymed poem that would be written on a tombstone.

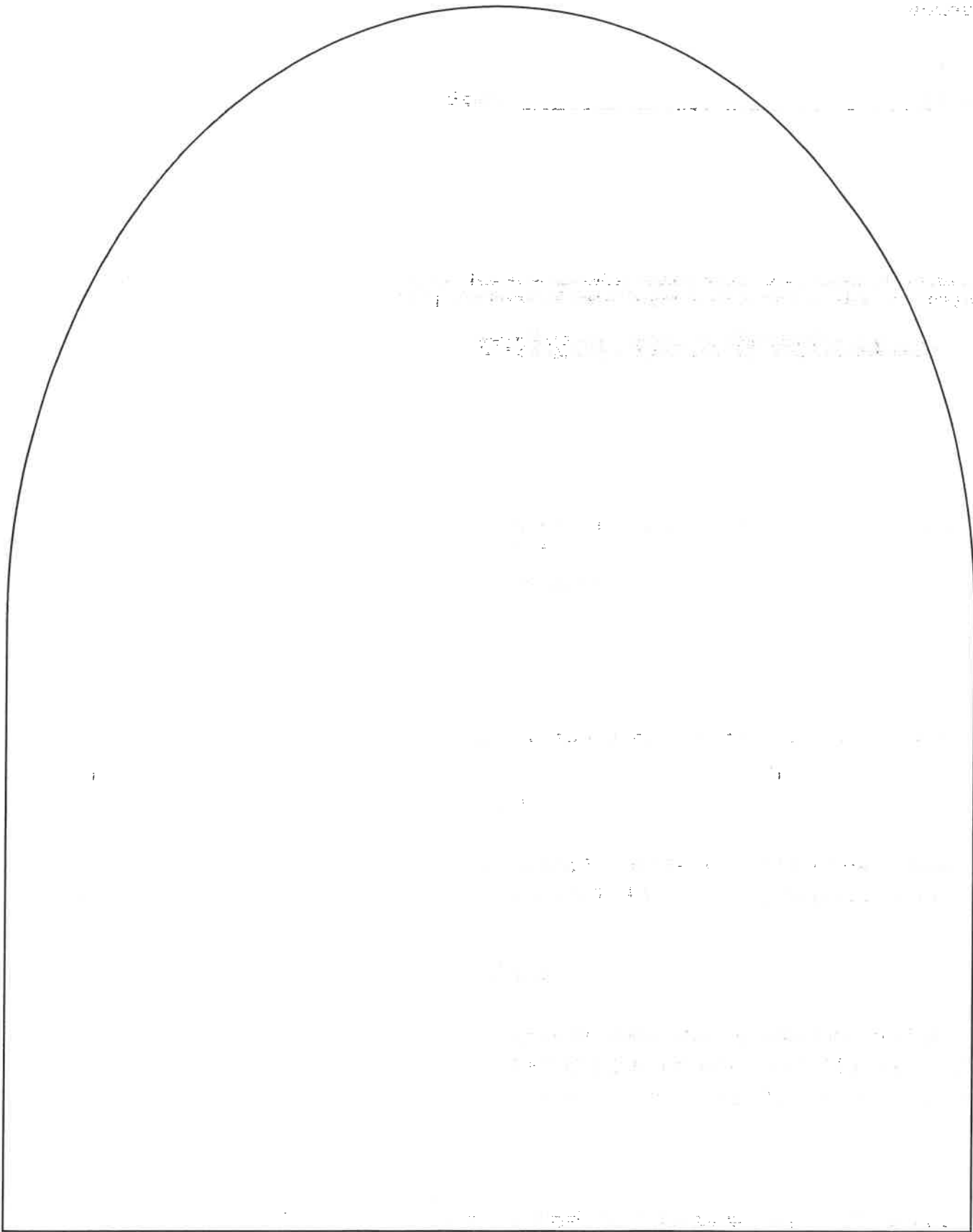
Choices

- Write the epitaph for Johnny from his point of view. Have him speak from the “great beyond”. If you do this, think about his outlook on life or his advice to those still living.
- Write the epitaph as one of the Greasers who misses Johnny. Think about what he meant to this surviving friend and put those thoughts into a poem.
- Write the epitaph for Dally from his point of view. Have him speak from the “great beyond”. If you do this, think about his outlook on life or his advice to those still living.
- Write the epitaph as one of the Greasers who misses Dally. Think about what he meant to this surviving friend and put those thoughts into a poem.

Write

- Use an *aabb* rhyme scheme. It should not be longer than four lines because it has to be short enough to fit on a tombstone. It can be as short as two lines. The length is not as important as what is written.

Write a draft on notebook paper. Try a couple of them, and choose the best one.



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Chapter 11

Silent Passage Analysis

Directions: Write each of these passages in the center of a separate sheet of paper or on the center of a sheet of chart paper. Then, have students silently read each passage and make a comment about them individually. The comment may be their interpretation of the passage or what the passage means to them personally. You may find other passages in the book you would like to add to this activity.

I looked at Bob's picture and I could begin to see the person we had killed. (141)

"Johnny is not dead." My voice was shaking. "Johnny is not dead." (143)

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Chapter 12

The title of this book is a theme in itself. Explain how *The Outsiders* is related to the theme of "fitting in" and "identity".

In your own words, what do you think is the most important theme in this novel?

Theme: _____

Passage that supports this theme:

Scan the book to find a memorable quote. Write the quote in the box below. Then, explain why you chose this particular quote.

I chose this quote because

