The Outsiders by S.E.Hinton

Class discussions and group activities from chapters 1-12 from The Outsiders will take place on the following dates. Please read a chapter before each meeting and write a response to the questions in your Outsiders document. Please date each response; no need to write the question. Add questions of your own as well as any vocabulary or slang words you do not recognize.

Think about foreshadowing, premonition, the Power of 3 and color as you read the book. Write down examples of each as you read through the chapters.

For Thursday, September 4th
Read chapter 1 pp. 1-18

1) Describe the Socs and the Greasers. How are they alike and what makes them so different?
2) Think about Ponyboy’s role as narrator? How is it strength? How could it also be limiting?

For Tuesday, September 9th
Read chapter 2 pp. 19-36

1) Why doesn’t Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
2) What do gangs do for people? How is a gang different than a club or a group?

For Thursday, September 11th
Read chapter 3 pp. 37-52

1) What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the Greasers?
2) What does Ponyboy mean on page 39 when he says, “Johnny and I understand each other without saying anything?”

For Tuesday, September 16th
Read chapter 4 pp. 53-67

1) What major event happens in this chapter? Why does this happen?
2) What would your advice be to Johnny and Ponyboy if they had come to you for help instead of Dally?

For Thursday, September 17th
Read chapter 5 pp. 68-84

1) What does Pony mean when he says, “I was supposed to be the deep one.” p. 75
2) How does Robert Frost’s poem Nothing Gold Can Stay create a bond between Johnny and Ponyboy?
For Monday, September 22nd

Read chapter 6 pp. 85-99

1) What “other side” of Dallas is revealed in the chapter?
2) What is your own definition of a hero? Do the three boys prove themselves to be heroes, according to your definition? Explain.

For Wednesday, September 24th

Read chapter 7 pp. 100-118

1) Why did Pony think it was better to see Socs as “just guys” on p. 118? What do you think he means by this?
2) Every family has its traditions, which prove a sense of security and belonging. What are some of the family traditions in the story?
3) What is Darry so strict with Ponyboy?

For Monday, September 29th

Read chapter 8 pp. 119-130

1) The author offers further clues about Pony’s deteriorating physical and mental health. Give examples of what he says, how he acts or what others say to him.
2) Find references to sunsets in this chapter.

For Wednesday, October 1st

Read chapter 9 pp. 131-149

1) Ponyboy questions his identity with the East Side Greasers and the motivation for the gang rumble. Give examples of the attitudes and self-destructive behavior exhibited by some of his gang members.
2) What do you think Johnny’s last words to Ponyboy mean?

For Friday, October 3rd

Read chapter 10 pp. 150 – 160

1) Give examples of how Ponyboy handles his grief?
2) Dally had a choice. How does the author have the reader take a closer look at the serious themes of the story?
For Monday, October 6th

Read Chapter 11 pp. 161-166

1) What is your reaction to the rumble?
2) Why does the judge question Ponyboy about his family?

For Wednesday, October 8th

Read Chapter 12 pp. 167 – 180

1) What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?
2) How is the book like “stepping out of a movie”? 