



Activity One

Greasers vs. Socs

In the novel, *The Outsiders*, a long-running feud between the Greasers and the Socs engulfs the city, and is at the heart of the events that take place in the story. Do some research of the social classes in 1960s Southern United States. Make a comparison chart between the Greasers and the Socs. Include information gathered from the novel, as well as information gathered from your own research.



"Greasers"

Are the depictions of each social class accurate in the novel? Write a short essay comparing the two classes. Make sure to include the tension between them during that time, as well as any similarities and differences that arise.

Finally, compare the tension between the Greasers and the Socs with current times. Do social prejudices still exist? How do they compare to those found in the 1960s? Do any current social classes share any traits with the Greasers and the Socs? Designate one paragraph of your essay to highlight this issue.



"Socs"

NAME: _____



Activity Two

Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1960s

The novel, *The Outsiders*, takes place in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1960s. This was a much more different time than what is depicted today. Do some research into Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1960s. Find out about the following:

- it's history
- it's geography
- it's weather patterns
- it's population
- it's conventions
- it's fashions
- it's economy
- it's entertainment



Tulsa, Oklahoma today.



Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1960's

Write an essay describing Tulsa during that time. Compare it to today. What differences did you find? What similarities did you find? What do you notice about the changes from then to now? How has it grown or stayed the same?

Have a class discussion in which you discuss the similarities and differences between the two time periods. As an added activity, compare Tulsa, Oklahoma in the 1960s with your hometown in the 1960s.

NAME: _____



Activity Three

From Book to Film

The novel, *The Outsiders*, was published in 1967. In 1983, a film version was made. It was directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starred C. Thomas Howell as Ponyboy Curtis, Ralph Macchio as Johnny Cade, Patrick Swayze as Darrel Curtis, Rob Lowe as Sodapop Curtis, Matt Dillon as Dallas Winston, Emilio Estevez as Two-Bit Matthews, Tom Cruise as Steve Randle, and Diane Lane as Cherry Valance.

Watch the film after you have read the novel. Compare the film to the novel. How true is the film to the novel? What are the differences? What are the similarities? What was left out of the film? Did the tone stay the same? Were the themes the same?



Write a review of the film *Scene from the film "The Outsiders"*

elaborating on the questions mentioned above. Make sure to use evidence from both the film as well as the novel to support your comparison. As an added option, post your review on a social film review site, such as Rotten Tomatoes.

Then, imagine making a current film version of the novel. Who would you cast in each role? What would you change from the original film? What would you include? How would your film version compare to the original? How would your version compare to the novel?



Activity Four

Evolution of the Cinema

The novel, *The Outsiders*, begins with Ponyboy leaving the “movie house” after seeing a movie starring Paul Newman. The next chapter shows him attending a drive-in movie. He lists the many different drive-in theaters in town, and paints a clear picture of it as a



King Kong poster 1976



King Kong poster 2005

common hang-out place for all classes of youths.

Research the different forms of film distribution from the 1960s to today. Compare the different modes of technology used to show films throughout the year, and expand on how it has evolved.

Then, research the different styles of movies that were shown in the 1960s until today. How has the subject matter changed? How has the visual effects changed? How has the camera work changed?

Write a detailed essay about the evolution of cinema. Be sure to touch on all the questions mentioned above.



Activity Five

Gone with the Wind

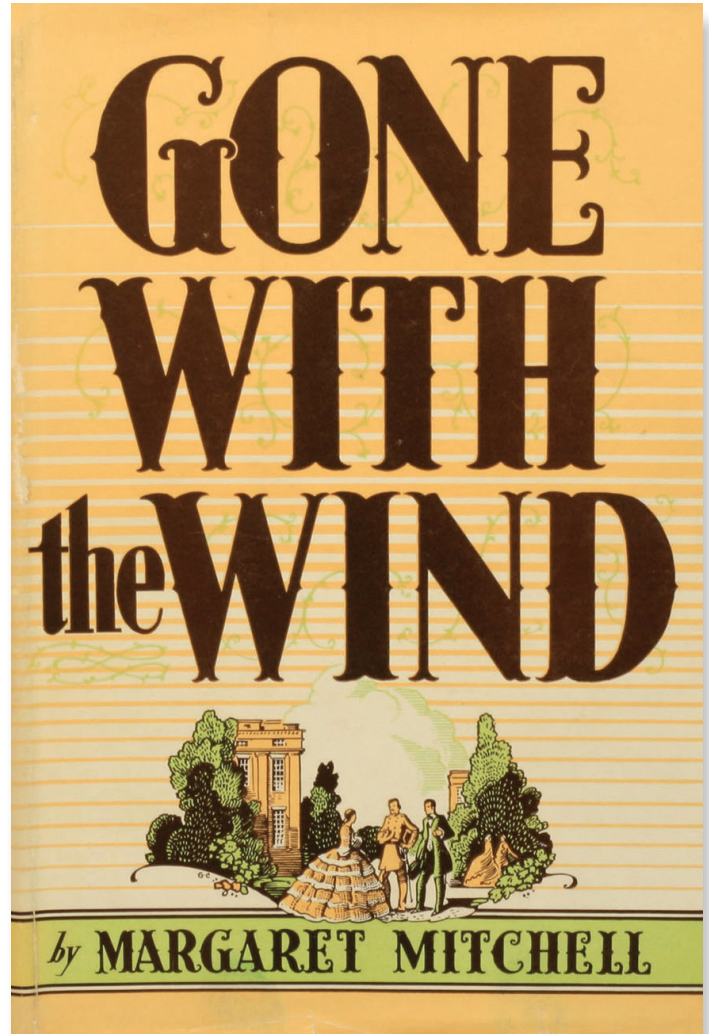
The novel, *Gone with the Wind*, plays an important role in the novel, *The Outsiders*. Johnny purchases a copy of it for Ponyboy to read to them while they hide out in Windrixville. Johnny asks for it while in the hospital. Johnny also leaves a final note to Ponyboy in the copy of the book.

The novel, *Gone with the Wind*, becomes a symbol of Ponyboy and Johnny's friendship, and their time together before Johnny's death. Read the novel, *Gone with the Wind*, or a detailed summary of its plot. Compare the themes and story to *The Outsiders*.

Explore the following:

- setting
- social classes
- social prejudices
- gallantry
- poverty
- premature death

Write an essay comparing the two novels. Explore how Ponyboy and Johnny might associate the novel, *Gone With the Wind*, with their own lives. Explain the similarities and differences between the two novels. Be sure to touch on some of the topics mentioned above.



"Gone with the wind" book cover



Activity Six

Up for Review

There have been a number of memorable books and movies made whose theme deals with identity, family relationships, social prejudices, and social conventions, for this has always been an important topic.

With the approval of your teacher, your task will be to select one of the books or movies from the lists below (or one not listed but approved by your teacher), then write a review of this book or movie. Your review should describe the characters, setting and plot, as well as making a comparison to *The Outsiders*. (Please don't give away the ending.)

In 1983, the novel *The Outsiders* was made into a feature film of the same name. You may wish to compare the book to the movie, highlighting the differences and similarities.

