

Course: Seventh Grade English

To enhance critical thinking skills, literary analysis, and writing abilities, students will read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and engage in bi-monthly journaling activities. As students read, they should consider how the individual is affected and influenced by his/her setting. In particular, students should ask themselves the following questions: *How does setting influence character and theme, and how do characters develop through their experiences? What particular changes influence adolescence?*

1. **Reading Task:** Read [*The Outsiders*](#) during the summer break.
2. **Journaling Task:** Complete bi-monthly "brain dump" journal entries, responding to provided [writing prompts](#) or recording personal reflections on the book.
 - Students can keep a paper journal for this activity, or they can keep a Google doc of all their entries. Whichever they choose, it must be consistent and must be all together, ready to submit when school starts.
3. **Annotation Requirements:**
 - Annotate key passages, quotes, or scenes in *The Outsiders* that resonate with you or raise questions.
 - Use annotations to support your journal reflections and deepen your understanding of the text.
 - Provide brief summaries at the end of each chapter. (You can do this without the physical book)
 - [Simple Guide to Annotations](#)
 - The guide is simply a suggestion and you are encouraged to make the annotations reflect your own style of analysis.
4. **Due Dates:** Submit the journal entries upon returning to school.
5. **Guidelines:**
 - Journal entries should be a **minimum** of one page in length (double spaced). Respond to provided writing prompts or conduct free-form reflections.
 - Annotations should engage with the text by discussing characters, themes, and personal connections.
6. **Support:** Families are encouraged to facilitate a quiet space for journaling, engage in discussions about the book, and assist with annotations to support student comprehension.

In addition, students should read a book of their own choosing that is both new to them and meets at least a seventh-grade reading level.