MIDDLE SCHOOL | BLUE VALLEY DISTRICT NOVEL RATIONALE

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

English Language Arts, 8th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The Outsiders is set in 1960s Oklahoma where two gangs, the "Greasers" and the "Socs" are constantly at odds. This novel is written in the perspective of Ponyboy Curtis, a teenage boy within the Greaser gang. Follow Ponyboy as he navigates friendship and violence while ultimately discovering the true value in taking the time to understand others even if you are supposed sworn enemies.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

• Unit 1: Relationships

 Essential Question: How does effective communication impact our relationships and understanding of the people and world around us?

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- RL. 8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RL.8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- W.8.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
- W. 8.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration.
- W.8.10 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing.
- W.8.11 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- SL.8.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on Grade 8 topics,

texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly