



NPMS: Summer Reading, Grade 8

The following six projects are to be completed before the first day of school. Please submit this completed packet to your English teacher when he/she asks for it in September. Thank you for your cooperation and enjoy reading The Outsiders!

All writing assignments are to be typed in 12-point Times New Roman Font with one inch margins, or printed neatly by hand on white lined paper.

1. Literary Element Characterization (Complete both A&B)

A. The opening of this novel introduces the reader to many of the important characters. Write a paragraph describing the physical description, and personality traits for each of the following characters: Be sure to refer to your character trait chart when completing this part of the assignment.

1. Ponyboy- How does he look? What are his personality traits?
2. Sodapop-How does he look? What are his personality traits?
3. Darry-How does he look? What are his personality traits?
4. Steve Randle-How does he look? What are his personality traits?
5. Two-Bit Matthews-How does he look? What are his personality traits?
6. Dallas Winston-How does he look? What are his personality traits?

B. Writing Activity

Reread the author's description of each important character introduced in chapter one. Write at least one full page about which character you might want to have as a friend, and why that character would make a good friend.

2 Journal Writing

Imagine that you are the character Cherry in the novel. Write a journal describing your thoughts, feelings, etc. the night that you spent with Ponyboy and Johnny. This entry must be a minimum of one typed page, or 375 words.

3 In Hiding

Imagine that like Johnny and Ponyboy, you have to go into hiding. Make a list of ten things that you would want to have with you if you were forced into hiding. Then describe how each item would be useful to you. Describe in detail in a one page journal entry how you would spend your day in the "hideout".

4 Cover That Story!

An event like the fire in the church would be reported by local newspapers and television stations. Imagine you are a reporter covering this story and write an article for your town's online newspaper. Be sure to include the **who, what, when, where and why** of the fire.

5 You be the Judge!

Imagine that you are a judge who must decide the fate of Ponyboy and Sodapop.

- First, you must decide whether they should be charged with Manslaughter or Murder.
- Using the following definitions of Murder and Manslaughter, decide what punishment, if any should be given to Ponyboy and Sodapop.
- Should the boys both be given the same sentence, or should only one of them be charged?
- Explain your verdict, and why you chose that specific length of sentence, or lack of sentence.

Manslaughter- The unlawful killing of another person without planning it out.

If you decide that the crime was manslaughter, you must think about if it was **voluntary** or **Involuntary Manslaughter**. The main difference between the two is that:

Voluntary Manslaughter requires intent to kill or cause serious bodily harm.

Involuntary Manslaughter does not.

Choose a sentence between 1-10 years in prison.

Murder-The unlawful killing of another human being without justification or excuse.

Choose a sentence between 10-25 years in prison.

6 What's your take?

Respond to the following questions/ Sentence Starters

1. How are you like any one of the characters in the novel, or how are you different?
2. Did you find the characters in the novel realistic? Why or why not?

3. Which character did you identify with the most? The Least? Why?
4. Who else would you like to read this novel? Why?
5. If you had the chance, what questions would you like to ask the author about the novel?
6. I did not think it was fair when...
7. I would like to see....
8. I wonder....
9. I think that Ponyboy learned that ...
- 10.If I could ask any character a question, I would ask

Rubric for *The Outsiders*

Content	25%
Organization	25%
Complete and Thorough Responses	25%
Mechanics and Organization	25%
97-100%	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
0-59%	F