

Do the following project:

1. Graffiti the “wall” you are given with quotes or words that you think are pertinent to the story or characters. Add color and personality to your wall, and spend some time searching for quotes or words that you think match the characters well.

Additionally, write three essays from the five options given below. Your essays should be at least a page long.

1. What is a hero, anyway? Write an essay explaining why you believe each of the Greasers - Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally - could be considered a hero. Include your own definition of hero in the essay, and be sure to explain how each character, in his own way, meets your definition. Remember to support your ideas with examples.
2. Despite it being the title, the word “outsiders” is never used in the novel itself. Who is an “outsider” throughout the story, and what makes that person an “outsider”? What other interpretations of the title are there? What message did S.E. Hinton want to get across when she decided to title her story *The Outsiders*?
3. Read Robert Frost’s poem “Nothing Gold Can Stay” and relate it to *The Outsiders*. What is its significance and relationship to the overall message of the book?
4. “Sixteen years on the streets and you can learn a lot. But all the wrong things, not the things you want to learn.” Discuss this quote from the novel and how it applies to each of the boys’ lives. What things did they learn? What things might they have liked to learn? Support your ideas with what you know about the characters through examples from the novel.
5. What are some of the faults in our society that S.E. Hinton points out? What methods, symbols, or metaphors does she use to point out these flaws?

Recommendations:

- **Don’t wait until August to start your summer work— that first day of school due date comes quickly.**
- **Read the book first, and then complete the project.**