The Outsiders

By

S.E. Hinton
In 1967, Viking Books published *The Outsiders* by a young woman named Susan Eloise Hinton.
“The Voice of Youth”, S. E. Hinton

- Her novel about teens growing up in Oklahoma in 1965/1966 was a hit with young people all over the country and earned her the nickname, “The Voice of Youth.”
“The Voice of Youth”, S. E. Hinton

- She gave young people an author who was “one of their own”, someone who saw the world from their point of view and wrote about the real questions and fears they experienced.
Setting: Time and Place
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• Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1965/1966
• The gas stations, dreary streets and housing of the “poor side of town” that the Greaser’s call home.
• The manicured lawns of upper middle class suburbia where the Socs live.
• The theaters drive-ins and burger joints that are common ground.
The two major groups of characters in *The Outsiders*:

**Greasers**
- jeans
- leather jackets
- T-shirts

**Socs**
- madras – clothes with a plaid design

(Pronounced “soshes”)

*Image of Greasers and Socs characters from the movie.*
Keith (Two-Bit) Mathews
Oldest of the gang and the funniest

Darrel (Darry) Shayne Curtis
Ponyboy’s oldest brother, who has assumed guardianship of the brothers

Ponyboy Curtis
14-year-old gang member, narrator and main character

Johnny Cade
Gang’s pet, who murders the Soc, Bob

Bob Sheldon
A Soc, whom Johnny kills in self-defense

Soda(pop) Patrick Curtis
Ponyboy’s older, high school dropout brother

Dallas (Dally) Winston
Toughest of the gang

Sherri (Cherry) Valance
Soc girlfriend of Bob Sheldon, eventually a spy for the greasers

Randy Adderson
Bob Sheldon’s best friend

Marcia
Cherry Valance’s girlfriend
The Greasers:

- Ponyboy Curtis
- Sodapop Curtis
- Darry Curtis
- Johnny Cade
- Dally Winston
- Two-bit Mathews
- Steve Randle
The Socs:

- Cherry Valance
- Bob Gardner
The Times:
• “The Outsiders was published in 1967, a restless time in the United States when teenagers were outspoken and rebellious.

• They hated the Vietnam War and the establishment that caused it to continue.
• They resented the fact that young people from minorities and underprivileged backgrounds were not given opportunities to succeed.
• To voice their dissatisfaction, they had sit-ins and protests: many became hippies, and others turned to drugs.”
Greaser’s “32” Ford, Coupe

Socs’ “65” Ford, Mustang Convertable
Hairstyles
Clothing styles
Do you know... your 1960s... slang?
Watch out, the fuzz is after us!

That Kim is one knock-out broad!

When did you start carrying a heater?

That band you like is rank!
A 1967 Mustang is one tuff car.

The hoods cause trouble at night.

Pass me a cancer stick, Johnny.
He got jumped by three guys.

There was a big rumble at the park.

I was hacked off at my parents.

He got really pickled!
(under the influence)
Hurry, we gotta make tracks.

The JD got five months in jail.

When did you get out of the cooler?

I could really use a weed right now.
Contemporary Personalities:

President Johnson (L.B.J.)

Dr. M.L. King Jr.
General W. Westmoreland, Commander of U.S. Forces in Vietnam 1965 (Painting—Byrd Archives)

Lt. Rick Rescorla 7th air Cav. Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam 1965, leads his men in a bayonet charge against the NVA. [Photo Peter Arnett] (Died 9/11/21 in the WTC, tower #2)
Neil A. Armstrong
David R. Scott, crew of
Gemini VIII
Teen Music Trends:

Elvis Presley

The Beach Boys
New Trends in Music:

The Beatles (1965)
T.V. 1966
Political Tension at Home and Abroad:

March from Selma, Alabama 1965
Civil Rights March.

Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam 1965,
The fighting heats up.
L.B.J decides to increase our role/mission in Vietnam.
Styles
Styles