

Seventh Grade Summer Reading Assignment Rolling Hills Country Day School

Welcome to the seventh grade! We believe that books can open new worlds and provide novel experiences to readers. Reading can help develop one's imagination and increase one's knowledge while expanding vocabulary as well as increasing composition skills. **All seventh grade students are required to read *A Place to Belong* by Cynthia Kadohata and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. For *The Outsiders*, students will complete the written assignment outlined below. This assignment will be graded and is due on the first day of class.** While there is no written assignment for *A Place to Belong*, students will be expected to be able to compare and contrast the journeys of the protagonists. We look forward to working with you!

***The Outsiders* Written Assignment**

Before you begin reading, please peruse the assignment below so that you know what you need to focus on as you read. In your own book, we recommend that you highlight or underline certain words or phrases that are important and take notes in the margins.

Please analyze the following in **complete sentences**. Do not write an essay, but simply **type the question and respond with your answer and related supporting details**.

Make your answers short and specific. **Provide textual evidence with page numbers if needed.**

1. Why is Johnny so special? Why does he have to be protected by the other Greasers?
2. Explain the meaning of the poem, "Nothing Gold Can Stay." How does it relate to the book? Why do you think S.E. Hinton included the poem in the story?
3. Ponyboy's view of the Socs evolves from the beginning of the novel to the end. How has his point of view changed? Give evidence to support your answer.
4. Who are the outsiders in the novel? What does it mean to be an outsider in the book?
5. Is Ponyboy still "gold" at the end of the book? Why or why not?
6. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?