

Junior  
Certificate  
School  
Programme



# The Outsiders

Student Workbook  
S.E. Hinton



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

**PDST**  
Professional Development  
Service for Teachers | An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt  
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí

 Junior  
Certificate  
School  
Programme



# **The Outsiders**

**STUDENT WORKBOOK**



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Student Workbook

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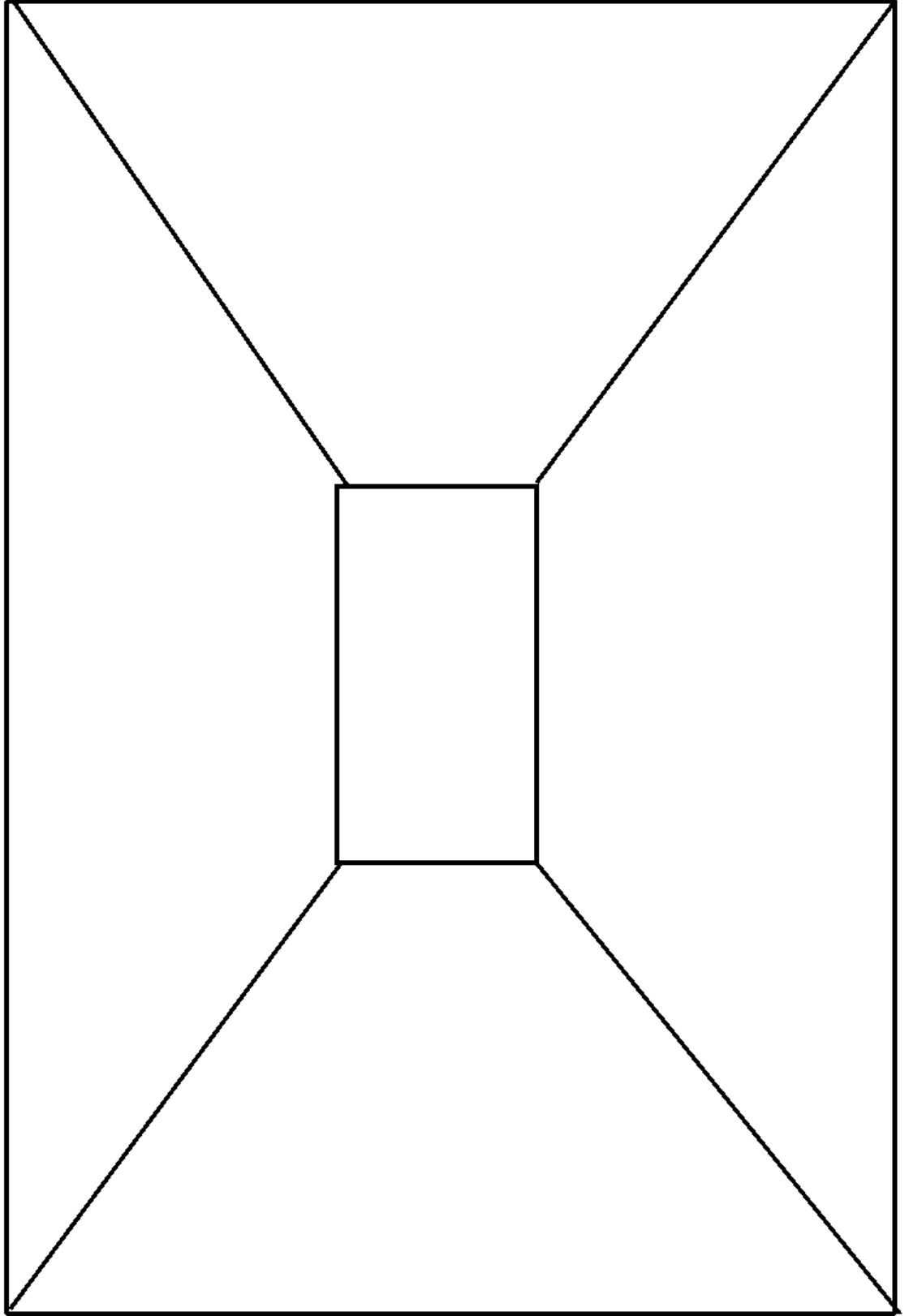
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*Written and shared by Siobhan Daly, PDST JCSP Advisor*

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### Being An Outsider

Using the placemat below, consider what it means to be an outsider. Think about this quietly and write what you think in your own section. Everyone should then complete their own section and then have discussion about this. When the group has agreed on points, write these in the middle section of the placemat.



### Research Activity: Life As It Once Was

Research life in America in the 1960s. Write down five facts in the table below.

You may consider using the internet to do research. If you choose to use the internet, remember to stay safe online. When this is completed, share these with your classmates.

<b>Fact 1</b>	
<b>Fact 2</b>	
<b>Fact 3</b>	
<b>Fact 4</b>	
<b>Fact 5</b>	

Would you have liked to live in America during this time? Why?

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What was the most surprising fact that you discovered? Why did you find this surprising?

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**CHAPTER 1:**

1. What are your first impressions of Ponyboy?

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2. Who are the Greasers? Who are the Socs?

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3. We learn that Ponyboy lives with his brothers. Why does he live with them?

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4. Why does Ponyboy refrain from engaging in mischief with the Greasers?

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5. Darry scolds Ponyboy for walking home alone. What does this reveal about their relationship?

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**CHAPTER 2:**

1. Dally acts in an inappropriate manner towards the Soc girls. Why do you think that he does this?

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2. Ponyboy is reluctant to inform Cherry that Sodapop has dropped out of school. Why do you think this is?

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3. Why does Ponyboy struggle to believe Cherry when she says that the Socs have issues, just like the Greasers?

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**CHAPTER 3:**

1. According to Cherry, what are the differences between the Socs and the Greasers?

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2. Ponyboy appears to assume that the Socs have easy lives. Why do you think that he assumes this?

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3. Ponyboy assumes that Darry doesn't want him. Do you think that his assumption is correct? Why?

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4. Why does Johnny want to run away?

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### Activity: Think, Pair, Share

*"It seemed funny to me that the sunset she saw from her patio and the one I saw from the back steps was the same one. Maybe the two different worlds we lived in weren't so different. We saw the same sunset."*

Ponyboy realises that, despite differences between himself and Cherry in society, they have more similarities with each other than differences.

Do you think that we live in a fair society? Reflect on this question and share your answer and your justifications for your answer with your partner. Listen to their views. Share your responses with the class.

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**CHAPTER 4:**

1. Describe the major event that happens in this chapter.

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2. Ponyboy and Johnny go to Dally after the event. What does this suggest about Ponyboy's relationship with Dally?

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3. Do you have any sympathy for Johnny? Why?

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**CHAPTER 5:**

- 1. How do you think Johnny and Ponyboy feel when they wake up and reflect on the murder?

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- 2. Outline the contents of Sodapop's letter.

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- 3. What is happening between the Socs and the Greasers as a result of the murder?

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- 4. Cherry has been acting as a spy for the Greasers. Why do you think she has decided to do this?

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## Blog Post

Imagine that you are Johnny. Write a blog post about how you feel after committing the murder. Remember, a blog post should be informal, should grab the attention of the reader and should include interesting information.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Blog Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Blog Post: \_\_\_\_\_

Blog Post:

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**CHAPTER 6:**

1. Why does Dally try to discourage Johnny from turning himself in? Do you think that this is the right decision?

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2. Describe what they see at the church.

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3. Did you find the end of this chapter surprising? Why?

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**CHAPTER 7:**

1. The doctors announced that Johnny will most likely be crippled. Why is this outcome particularly disastrous for Johnny?

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2. After reading the newspaper, what does Ponyboy fear?

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3. According to Sodapop, where is Sandy now?

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4. Randy commends Ponyboy on his heroic actions at the church. Why do you think that Randy decides not to participate in the fight that evening?

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**CHAPTER 8:**

1. At the hospital, what does Johnny request that Ponyboy do?

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2. How does Johnny's mother behave at the hospital? What are your impressions of Johnny's mother?

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3. Why do you think that Johnny tells the nurse that he doesn't want to see his mother?

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4. Why does Cherry say that she can't visit Johnny in the hospital?

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### Character Traits

Complete the table below with suitable traits for each of the characters listed. Remember to give evidence for each of the traits that you have listed.

<b>Evidence</b>					
<b>Trait</b>					
<b>Evidence</b>					
<b>Trait</b>					
<b>Character</b>	<b>Ponyboy</b>	<b>Johnny</b>	<b>Dally</b>	<b>(Darry) Darrel</b>	<b>Cherry</b>

**CHAPTER 9:**

1. How do you think Ponyboy feels before the rumble?

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2. What weapons are going to be used in the rumble?

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3. What does Dally say to the policeman when they are stopped for speeding?

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4. Johnny's last words to Ponyboy are "Stay gold, Ponyboy, stay gold." What do you think these words mean?

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5. How does Dally react when Johnny dies?

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**CHAPTER 10:**

1. How do the gang react when Ponyboy informs them about Johnny's death?

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2. Were you surprised when Dally died? Why?

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3. We learn that Johnny had instructed the nurse to give "Gone With The Wind" to Ponyboy. Why do you think he did this?

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4. What do you think will happen to Soda, Darry and Ponyboy?

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### Additional Character Activity

Imagine that you have to add an additional character to the novel at this point. Consider who you would like to add and the impact that they would have.

**Name of Character:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why I have decided to add this character:**

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**How my character would impact on the plot:**

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**CHAPTER 11:**

1. Who does Ponyboy discover a photo of in Soda's old yearbook?

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2. Why does Randy visit Ponyboy?

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3. Ponyboy states that he was responsible for Bob's death. Why do you think that he says this?

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4. What does Randy learn about Ponyboy's life?

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**CHAPTER 12:**

1. What happens at the court hearing?

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2. Do you think that the judge made a fair decision? Why?

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3. Why does Soda run out of the house?

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4. Describe the content of Johnny's note.

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5. What does Ponyboy decide to do for his English assignment?

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## Reflection on the ending of the novel

Summarise the end of the novel.

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Were you satisfied with this ending? Why?

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Did you feel sympathy for any characters at the end of the novel? Why?

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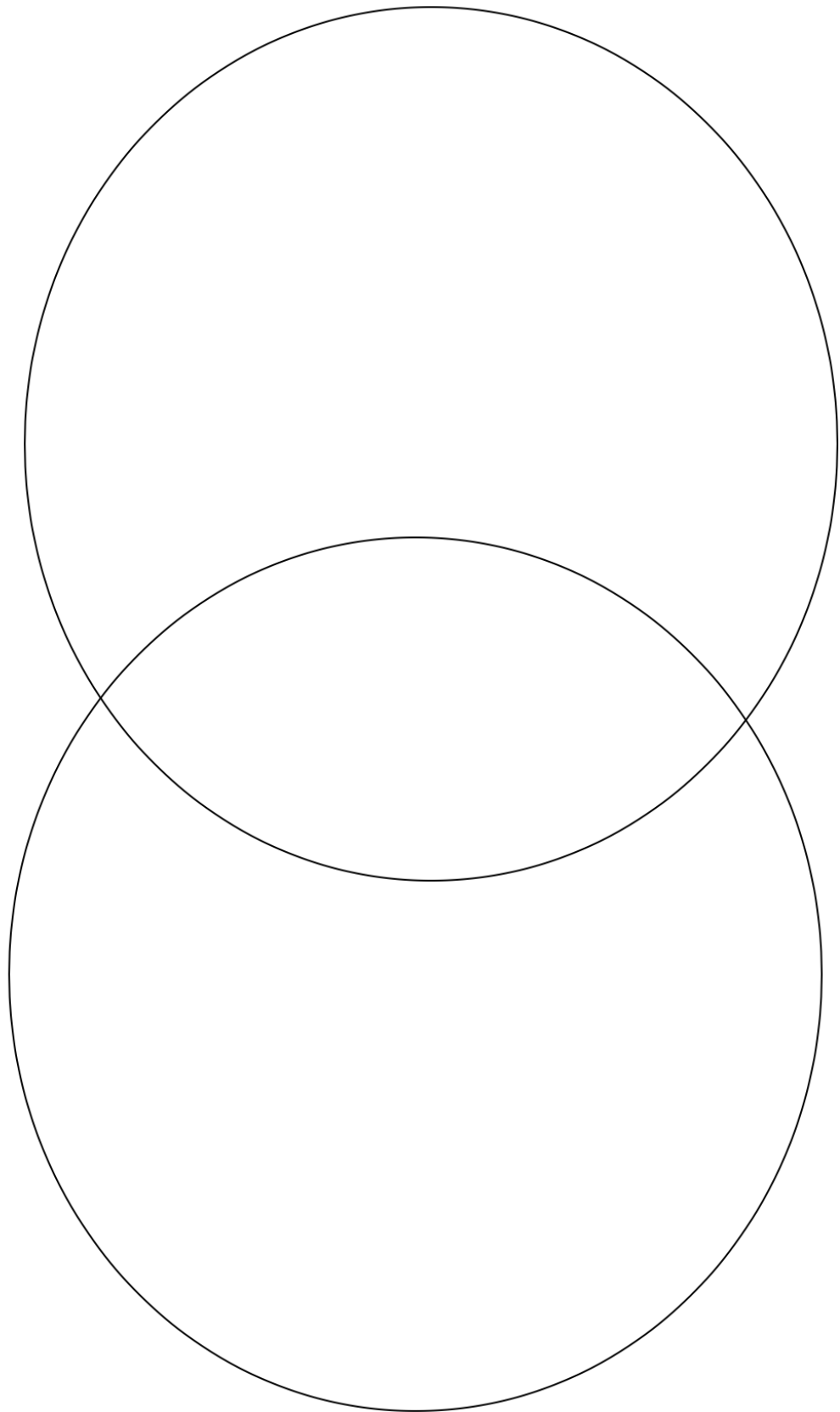
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### Same But Different

Use the Venn Diagram to identify similarities and differences between the Greasers and the Socs.

Greasers

Socs



## Storyboard Activity

Choose a character from the novel and imagine a day in their life ten years from now.

**Here are some questions to consider:**

*Would your character still live in the same area or would they have moved somewhere?*

*If so, why would they have moved?*

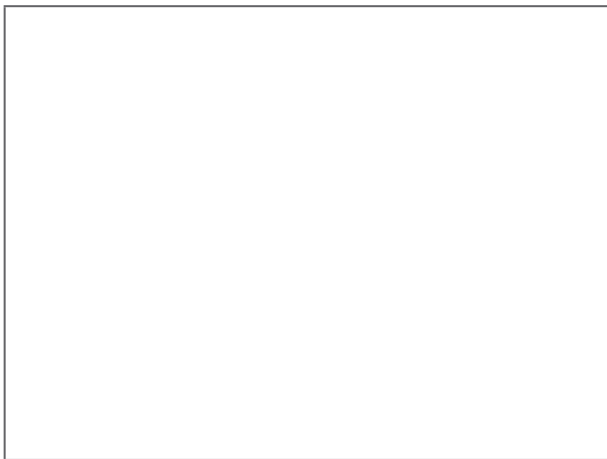
*Would their lives have changed for better or for worse? How?*

*Would they still be in contact with their friends from childhood?*

**Use the boxes below to describe a day in their life ten years from now.**

Write down what they are doing and draw pictures to support this.

**My Chosen Character is** \_\_\_\_\_



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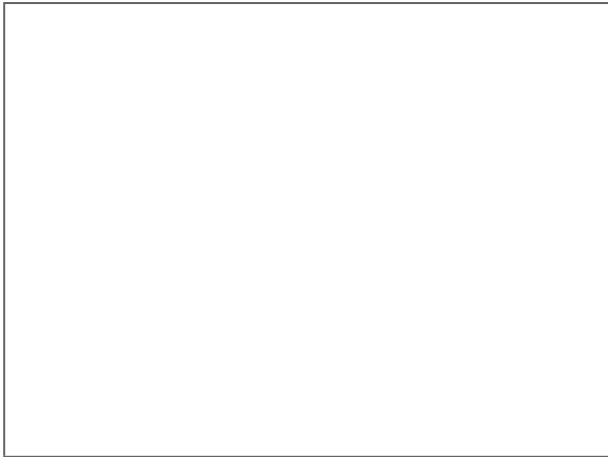


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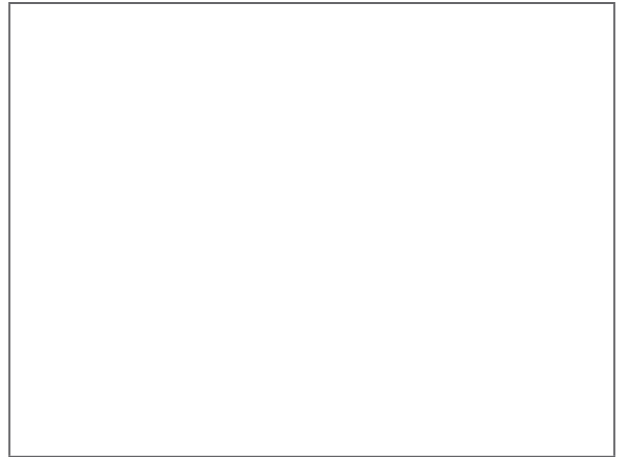


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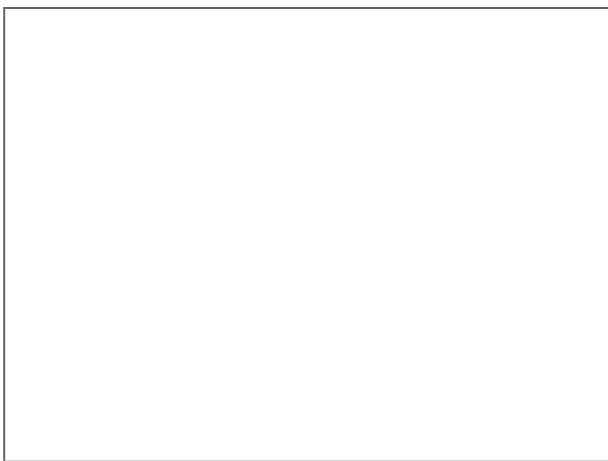


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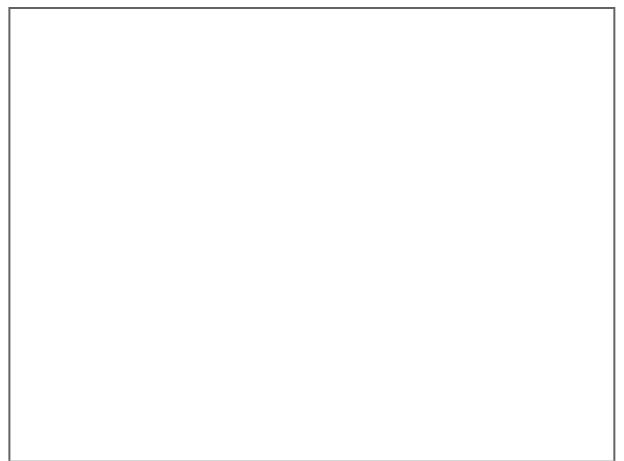


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### Debate Activity

There is a lot of violence in the novel. However, this does not solve any of the characters' problems and has devastating effects on the lives of some of the characters.

Write a speech for a class debate for or against the motion "Violence can never be justified."

It is important to consider at least two sides of an issue. Use the table below to record your thoughts and to assist you in reaching a conclusion.

For	Evidence	Against	Evidence

When you have completed this table, reflect on the information above. Use this to assist you in reaching an informed conclusion.

Now, write your speech. Remember to plan each of the paragraphs before you begin writing.

**Success Criteria:**

I have included arguments.	
I have supported my arguments with evidence.	
I have used persuasive writing.	
I have introduced my stance in the first paragraph.	
I have summarised my debate in the final paragraph.	
I have used connectives ( <i>such as "however," "overall"</i> ).	
I have referred to the audience throughout my debate.	

**Paragraph 1:**

Introduce yourself and address the audience.  
Present your topic and opinion.

**Paragraph 2:**

What is your first point?

**Paragraph 2:**

What is your second point?

**Paragraph 3:**

What is your third point?

**Paragraph 4:**

Make your conclusion.







