**8th grade Literature 2019 SUMMER READING St. Timothy’s School**

**Teacher: Mr. Nowak**

**NOVEL: *THE OUTSIDERS* by S.E. Hinton**

**ISBN# 978-0-14-038572-4**

**After reading the novel, please complete the assignments listed below. These completed assignments will be due on Friday, August 23rd (2nd day of school). We will discuss the novel, take various assessments, and evaluate our summer projects during our first week of school. It is vital that students return to school with this summer work completed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I WILL be answering email over the summer. Please be sure to put your NAME on all assignments.**

**FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!**

**Choose ONE (1) assignment from EACH section to complete. Please note there are three sections – therefore, producing three assignments in total.**

**SECTION I**

1. **Choose ten (10) significant events in the novel. Make a timeline with these events in the proper chronological order. Please include notes on the timeline explaining *why* the events are significant to the overall plot/storyline of the novel.**
2. **Draw a character chart (“family” tree) representing the connections between the members of the greasers and Socs. Please include or reference how some characters may be linked to both greasers and Socs. Be thorough.**
3. **Draw a cartoon of one of your favorite/memorable scenes from the book. Cartoons must include a short synopsis (summary) of the chosen scene with references to its importance to the overall plot.**

**SECTION II**

1. **Design an award for five of the main characters. Write a brief paragraph explaining why each chosen character qualified or deserves the particular award. For example – “Rebel of the Year” goes to Dally – but maybe he deserves the “Best Friend” award……hmmmmmmm??? Be creative!!**
2. **Take the Robert Frost poem “Nothing Gold Can Stay” (Chapter 5, p. 77) and explain its significance or meaning to themes from the novel. Write one paragraph analyzing the poem and the various themes as well as its meaning to Ponyboy and in the end, Johnny Cade and Dally. Illustrate your point with a picture complementing the paragraph.**
3. **Take notes finding examples of fairness, honor, humiliation, loyalty, grief, and maturity among the greasers and Socs. Include a definition of the word and at least two (2) examples with explanation. *For example* – Loyalty means a feeling of devotion, duty, or attachment to someone or something. Captain America remains loyal to his fellow Avengers as he knows they are all fighting for common good.**

**SECTION III**

1. **Write a three paragraph essay defining the term “outsider” as related to the novel. Express the alienation/exclusion that leads to Pony’s erroneous judgement of the Socs as well as that of some of his peers. Additionally, apply the word to two other characters who may be viewed as “outsiders” using support from the novel’s text.**
2. **Write a three paragraph essay discussing/evaluating the importance of gangs to the greasers and the Socs. Include textual evidence from the novel. Try to infer from Pony’s descriptions as well as his interactions with Cherry.**
3. **Write a three paragraph essay analyzing the word “hero.” This essay should include the actual definition of the term (dictionary.com), your definition of the term, as well as a reflection on the characters from the novel whom you may see exhibiting the qualities of “heroes.” Lastly, the final paragraph of this essay should include a brief description of who you may view as a present day, real-life hero.**

**\*\*\*If you have ANY other ideas for “projects” involving this novel, PLEASE feel free to contact me and run it by me! I would love to hear your ideas and how you may wish to evaluate the summer reading. Email me** [**bnowak@sttimothys.org**](mailto:bnowak@sttimothys.org) **anytime and I will get back to you asap!!**

**BEST OF LUCK – I AM EXTREMELY EXCITED ABOUT GETTING STARTED IN AUGUST! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!**