

# Literacy Unit of Study Short Story Narratives and The Outsiders

## Post - Assessment Writing Assignment

Choose one of the following formats for your story.

### **Option 1 – Write a sequel**

Develop a Part 2 of the story **after** the conclusion of the book that will take place 5 years later. What happened to the characters after five years? What has changed if anything? Give the characters new experiences. Choose one character to focus on as the narrator other than Ponyboy. Focus on their perspective. Talk about events that have changed them and how they are living 5 years after S.E Hinton's story.

### **Option 2 – Write a prequel**

What happened **before** the beginning of S.E Hinton's story? How did the Greasers meet? What led them all to become friends during the story? How did their experiences create the characters we got to know so well in the book? Choose a character other than Ponyboy and write from their point of view. Use what you know about the character to develop a story about their life that Ponyboy may not have known from his perspective. Include information about their family, school experiences, likes and dislikes, friends etc.

### **Option 3 – Alternate Ending**

Create a new ending for the book. Start at the **church fire**, how would you change the events if given the opportunity? Speak from Ponyboy's perspective of the events right after the church fire. Create a whole new ending of events and give the characters a second chance in life.

**All short stories must include elements focused on in the unit. For example:**

- Theme – there must be an identifiable theme or moral lesson for your reader. What will your reader learn from the characters in your story?
- Point of View and Perspective- You must select one character to narrate your story. The point of view must be consistent throughout the story and must express that character's perspective or viewpoints on life, the events, supporting characters and their experiences.
- Characters- The characters in the story must be consistent with the original characters from the book. If you are introducing a new character that character must be realistic to the plot.
- Plot- There must be a clearly identifiable exposition, rising action, turning point, falling action and conclusion. All events should be identified with transitions words and should represent events consistent with the original story and be realistic.
- Writing Style- You as the author should include examples of figurative language and foreshadowing to help keep your story interesting.
- Setting- The setting should be realistic to the time-period and location of events. Research what trends were in the mid- west at this time.
- Dialogue- The conversations between or among characters should be clearly identifiable and in proper format. The reader should be able to follow all conversations and know who is doing the talking and when. Conversations should reveal information about the characters experiences.
- Plan, Draft, Revise and Edit before publishing your work. Make sure your final story is free of errors and neatly written or typed. Your story should be your best work. Ask your teacher about length requirements.
- All short stories will be assessed using a standard specific rubric. Each element listed above will contribute to your grade.