Your Name

Instructor Name

Course Number

Date

**Book Report: The Outsiders**

I chose the book *The Outsiders* to write my report because I believe it is close to reality. It depicts the real-life struggles of many lower-class teenagers in our society. Although, the temporal setting of the story suggests that it probably took place in the mid-1920s, still some of the aspects of the story correspond to the modern era most importantly being class difference. Walking around my neighbourhood, I have often seen rich boys bullying lower and middle class kids. It is distressing to see poor kids suffer as a result of their family background.

The story takes place in Oklahoma City and portrays a young boy's rediscovery who is labelled ‘poor class’ and ‘unwanted’ by the society due to his family background (Hinton and Sergel). The book’s events are told from the perspective of Ponyboy Curtis, the Greasers' 14-year-old member. The ‘Greasers’ is a boy gang which is considered criminal and contributes to a weaker socio-economic class than its opponent, the Socs (Hinton and Sergel). A configuration and parameters of the "held" region of the two gangs, the Greasers and the Socials, is predominantly based on economic and social disparities. The book proceeds to explain how to transcend this prejudice and find balance after awareness of one's existence is accomplished.

The story is written by Susan Eloise Hinton who is known for writing realistic young adult literature (“S. E. Hinton”). She was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on 22 July 1950. She developed a fondness for writing and literature when she was very young. The Outsiders was her first book which she published at the age of seventeen during his father’s illness. The book was originally considered provocative for its depiction of teenage rebellion but now it is known as a masterpiece of adolescent fiction. Hinton proceeded to address the subjects of gang violence and teenage evolution by writing her second novel, ‘That Was Then, This Is Now’, in 1971 which received a huge appraisal. Later in the 1970s, she wrote two more novels, ‘Rumble Fish’ and ‘Tex’ with the same themes which were also adapted into the films. She received the Young Adult Services Division/ *School Library Journal*Author Award in the year 1988 by American Library Association(“S. E. Hinton”). She now lives happily with her husband and Son in North Carolina.

The main characters of the book are mainly Pony Curtis who is a novel’s narrator, Darry and Saddopop who are the brothers of Pony Curtis, Dallas and Johnny who are the members of the Greasers gang along with pony, Cherry and Marcia who are the socs, and Bob who is the boyfriend of Cherry (Hinton and Sergel). All these characters have an active role to play which serves as an element of dramatization which keeps the readers interested until the end. At the end of the story, when pony's English teacher tells her to write an essay for extra credit, he decides to write his story. It was a point where I connected to the story the most because that moment served as a moment of self-realization for Pony Curtis. He thinks that regardless of the struggles he went through, he should be glad that his friends and family were by his side. He decides to feel contented with everything he has(Hinton and Sergel). I would certainly recommend this story to a friend or family member because it contains all the essential knacks of a good story with aspects relating to the bitter realities of society.