



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - The Outsiders

Grade levels 6-9
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 750L

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Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

There are two social groups in "The Outsiders," the preppy Socs and the tough greasers. Everyone belongs to various groups, or cliques. What group do you belong to? What interest or belief do the members of your group share? Write about a group you belong to.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In "The Outsiders," the friendship among the members of the greasers is critical in their lives. Friends occupy the spaces usually reserved for family. Write about a person whom you consider a close friend and explain why the friendship is meaningful to you.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

Johnny is considered a hero for saving the children from the fire. In your opinion, what makes a person a hero? Write about someone whom you consider a hero and explain why you think this person is a hero.

Evidence and Inference - Essay Topics

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions for each prompt, the answers to which provide supporting evidence for body paragraphs that could be included in an essay. The Thesis Statement Worksheet at the end of this document will help students understand the structure of a thesis. The Evidence and Inference Worksheet pages will help students plan their essays and understand the relationship between the thesis statement, body paragraphs and supporting points.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

"The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton is a coming-of-age novel, or a story about the experience of growing up and becoming an adult. Each of the main characters in "The Outsiders" matures in a different way over the course of the story, but Johnny Cade's transformation is the most noticeable. Write a multi-paragraph essay that describes how Johnny Cade matures and becomes an adult over the course of the book. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion of Johnny Cade, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a concluding paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Gang membership>>

1. Think about Johnny Cade at the beginning of the story. How do the greasers and the Socs treat him?
2. In what way does Johnny contribute to the negativity around him?

Courage>>

3. How does Johnny show courage at the drive in?
4. How does Johnny show physical courage during a gang fight?

Adult decisions>>

5. In what ways does Johnny begin to behave more like an adult than a child after he kills a Soc?
6. Later in the book, after Johnny has saved children's lives and become a hero, he reflects on his life with maturity. What realizations does he have?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

"The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton shows the reader that people often feel excluded, or not part of a group, at one time or another. Each of the main characters in the book experiences the feeling of being an outsider. Because Ponyboy is the narrator of the story, he explains to the reader directly how he feels different from those around him. Write a multi-paragraph essay that describes why Ponyboy feels like an outsider. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion about Ponyboy's feelings, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a concluding paragraph that sums up your point of view.

Gang membership>>

1. Why do Ponyboy and the greasers feel different from others?
2. How do Ponyboy and the other greasers look different from the Socs and others?

Hobbies/pastimes>>

3. What examples from "The Outsiders" show that Ponyboy has more academic interests and talent than other greasers?
4. What pastimes does Ponyboy enjoy that he feels those around him do not?

Parents>>

5. How is Ponyboy's family life different from that of others?
6. What does Ponyboy think of his brothers?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

Can anything positive ever come out of a terrible act of violence? Surprisingly, several good things follow Johnny Cade's murder of a Soc gang member who was trying to drown Ponyboy. Write a paragraph describing some of the positive consequences that follow Johnny Cade's murderous act. Be specific and include examples from the story.

1. When Ponyboy returns home after hiding out for five days and sees Darrel's reaction, what does he finally realize about his brother and their relationship?
2. The headline in a local newspaper reads "Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes." What does Dallas Thomas--cold, hard, mean Dally--do that unexpectedly makes him one of those heroes?
3. The murder of his best friend has a profound impact on Randy. How does it affect his thoughts about the coming Soc-greaser rumble, and whom does he talk to about his feelings?
4. What famous line in the book expresses Johnny's hope that Ponyboy will not die at 16 as Johnny will, but stay safe and alive in the bright sunshine?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from The Outsiders that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
conform	To be similar or the same
contempt	The act of despising
courage	The strength to face difficulty or danger
defiance	Willingness to fight or disagree
elite	The best, socially superior
falter	To hesitate in purpose or action
intelligence	Ability to learn and understand
underprivileged	Having fewer advantages than others because of low economic or social status

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of The Outsiders include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
amplify	To make louder
elude	Beyond understanding
exploits	Brave or daring acts
gallant	Brave
hysterics	A fit of uncontrollable crying or laughing
indignant	Annoyed because of something unjust or untrue
plasma	The fluid part of blood, often given after an accident
radiate	To appear to shine brightly
reformatory	Penal institution for young offenders
rogue	A mischievous person
sarcastic	Showing scorn
sympathetic	Marked by friendliness or compassion
testify	To give evidence of
unfathomable	Impossible to understand

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book. These worksheets can be accessed via the Internet. See the last page of this document for Printable Worksheet links.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Ponyboy is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Ponyboy look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

Compare and contrast Ponyboy with Johnny or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

Ponyboy's opinion of the Socs changes as the novel develops. Write a paragraph detailing the ways in which Ponyboy's opinion of the Socs at the end of the story differs from his opinion at the beginning.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

Additional Paragraph and Essay Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheets in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of The Outsiders, and the appropriate Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs and essays from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Paragraph writing topic

In the story, Cherry, a Socs girl, is sympathetic toward the greasers. Write a paragraph explaining why Cherry, a Socs cheerleader, is drawn to a group of outsiders with whom she seems to have so little in common.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 6.)

Essay writing topic

In the story, different attitudes toward violence emerge. Write an essay describing these attitudes and tell which you agree with and which you disagree with.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

Name _____

Date _____

Thesis Statement Worksheet

The thesis statement contains two parts: your OPINION and a PLAN, the points that support your opinion. Each of the points in your plan will be the main idea of a body paragraph in your essay.

Sample thesis statement for an essay with 3 body paragraphs.

Bike riding is an ideal mode of transportation (OPINION) because it is reliable, fast, and allows to you to avoid traffic (PLAN).

Exercise 1

Look at the following well-written thesis statements.
Underline the opinion with two lines and the plan with one line.

1. Soccer is a great sport because it is fun, athletic, and social.
2. Oatmeal is the best breakfast because it is tasty and nutritious.
3. The two most important United States presidents were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Exercise 2

Remember that a thesis statement should always be comprised of two parts: your opinion and a plan.
Draw a line to connect each opinion on the left with its matching plan on the right.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bananas are the best type of fruit | to travel, bike ride, and swim. |
| 2. My two favorite relatives are | because they are tasty, filling, and stay fresh all day. |
| 3. The most exciting ways to spend my vacation are | my brother and my grandmother. |

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

See the previous page for the Thesis Statement Worksheet.

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