

[Your Name]  
3341 Clays Mill Road  
Lexington, KY 40503  
September 13, 2016

S.E. Hinton  
Author Mail  
Viking, Penguin Putnam  
375 Hudson Street  
New York, NY 10014

Dear S.E. Hinton:

Let me begin by saying that your book “The Outsiders” was and still is one of the most important books of my lifetime. I read it as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, and I recall very well the tears I cried during my first reading. Later, when I became a middle school Language Arts teacher, the novel was assigned curriculum. As you can imagine, I was thrilled to share my love for such an incredible novel with my students. I wanted to share with you some of my reasons for choosing your book as my favorite of all time.

First, I believe your book is timeless. For a book to be written and set in the 1950s, it was still relevant to me in the 1980s when I read it in middle school, and it is STILL relevant to my students today in 2016. You amazingly chose a conflict that will (sadly) be with us forever – the haves vs. the have nots. The conflict created by their family and financial situations, plus their fast and inaccurate judgements of each other creates hatred today, just like it did back then. The issues between the Socs and the Greasers are eternal, and that is just one of the reasons your book has stayed with me all of these years.

I also think your book has a character for everyone, which is another reason I like it. I’ve taught in country, rural schools, I’ve taught in small wealthy schools, and I’ve taught in inner city schools and this book went to every one of them with me. The farm kids in the country loved hearing about Sodapop and his horse, and many knew the sadness of losing an animal for financial reasons. The students at the small, wealthy schools related to Cherry. They felt like no matter what they did, everyone felt like they were snobs – it didn’t matter how nice they were. And finally, in the inner city school I taught in, they had a complete and total understanding of TUFF. They knew the importance of reputation and standing up for yourself, even if it means breaking the rules or the law.

In conclusion, I’d like to thank you for this book. Your novel has changed my life and the lives of my students. You have given us a story to share and a history to grow from – and I am extremely thankful to you for that.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]