

# English 8 / Honors English 8

## 2024 Summer Reading

Dear Eighth Grader,

**Hooray! Summer has almost arrived!** As an upperclassman, however, summer does come with responsibilities. First and foremost, you must use your summer as a time to savor the blessings of your young life—grow in your faith in God, serve others, invest in family and friends, create memories, travel, try something new— You get the idea.

Second, as a maturing young adult and budding scholar, it is essential that you keep your thinking and creative juices flowing over these next months. To that effect, I bring you: your summer reading assignments! Notice the exclamation point used in the preceding sentence. The use of this end punctuation means that I want you to be excited about the tasks you are about to complete. Contrary to popular belief, they are not designed to torture you. Instead, young scholar, brace yourself to experience the thrills of literary intrigue and adventure, as well as the delights of utter immersion in a book of your choosing.

The theme for English 8 is **Finding TRUTH**. Your summer reading is selected with this theme in mind. Your assigned text is S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*—a ground-breaking young adult novel which captures on the timeless struggles of growing up and learning to **STAY TRUE** in a world where there will always be an “in-group” and an “out-group.” Additionally, your choice book will challenge and deepen your faith as you live vicariously through the experiences of a believer who has learned to stand firm on the **INERRANT, TRUE Word of God** and lives out their faith in radical, inspiring ways.

I hope you will be blessed by your reading this summer! I prayerfully look forward to meeting you in August!

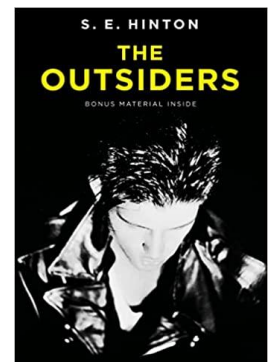
Your Teacher,

*Mrs. Steed*

Ksteed@ccslancers.com

### **Task 1-Read for Literary Experience!**

1. **Read** S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*. (It is recommended, but not required, that you annotate your book for moments where you see Ponyboy struggling with who he is and where he belongs (internal conflict) and moments where you see him reflecting on his divided society (Socs versus Greasers).
2. **Be prepared to discuss and be TESTED** over the book the first few days of school.



## **Task 2-Read for Enjoyment, Information, and Inspiration!**

1. **Read a non-fiction book** of your choice from the list of titles (below). This book should be one that most captures your interest—it entices you! Make sure your parent agrees with your selection as well.

### **Choose one non-fiction title from this list:**

-*God's Smuggler*—Brother Andrew

-*The Heavenly Man*—Brother Yun

-*Devil at My Heels*—Louie Zamperini

-*In the Presence of My Enemies*—Gracia Burnham

-*Kisses from Katie*—Katie Davis

-*SEAL of God*—Chad Williams

-*Fearless*—Eric Blehm

-*Jumping Through Fires: The Gripping Story of One Man's Escape from Revolution to Redemption*—David Nasser

## **Task 3-Make Your Reading a Social Activity through DISCUSSION!**

1. **Discuss the reading** with a parent or guardian, using questions provided on the “Parental Acknowledgement Form” (on page 3 of this document).
2. **PRINT the Acknowledgement Form—Due on the FIRST day of school.**  
**This is worth a TEST Grade!**

# PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

## Summer Reading 2024

**Directions:** After you have read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton and one of the non-fiction reading options, discuss the reading with your parent or guardian using the questions below as a guide. Print, sign, and date this document. This is worth a TEST GRADE and will be collected on the FIRST DAY of school.

1. Describe Ponyboy and explain what aspects of his character make him an outsider, (even amongst his fellow greasers).
2. What major challenges/conflicts does Ponyboy face? How do these experiences challenge and grow Ponyboy's understanding of his world.
3. What did YOU learn from reading your non-fiction reading book? What are your take-aways?

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, in their entirety, *The Outsiders* and one of the non-fiction choice book options. I have discussed the two books with my parent or guardian using the questions above as a guide.

I am prepared to bring the two books to class on the first day of school, in addition to this printed and signed form.

I understand that I am responsible for the content of each book and am prepared to participate in discussions, complete in-class assignments, and take assessments on the two books.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

