

November 16, 2018

Dear S.E.Hinton

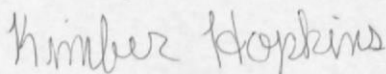
Your book *The Outsiders* was just another book that I was going to read in my English class, but it became so much more. It opened my eyes to the world and has made me think about other people more. It made me think about other people's troubles at home. I have started to realize that even if they do look perfectly fine they may not be. I used to live in Las Vegas where a lot of people were so mean. I am realizing now that they probably had troubled homes and I should have been a friend to them instead of treating them how they were treating me. That's how I used to think: treat them how you are being treated. Because of your book I don't just think about what's right in front of me, instead I think much farther into someone's life and how they're really feeling.

It's human nature not to like someone that is better than you are or someone that has more than you. But it's not ok to treat someone differently just because they have more than you do. And I learned this lesson from your book. Yeah, there will be the social snobs that are just mean for no good reason but that doesn't give you a reason to be mean right back at them. Sometimes you have to be the bigger person, even if it is the harder thing to do. It may make you angry that someone has more money than you do so you want to treat them badly, but they haven't done anything wrong to you. In your book *The Outsiders*, the Socs were the high class rich kids and the Greasers were the low class hoods. In this situation the Socs thought they were better because they had more, so they were mean to the Greasers. No matter if your higher or lower than someone you both should give equal respect to one another. I learned to think this way because of your book.

Ponyboy doesn't like the Socs but isn't mean to them either. I think I am like Ponyboy because even if he doesn't like someone, he isn't rude to that person. That doesn't mean he is nice to them, though. Both Pony and I need to learn to realize that all people are equal and just because someone is different doesn't give us the right to not be as good to them as we are to others. I have, for example, been nice to my class and also tolerated the seventh graders even though they were younger and I might not like them. I have changed my thoughts, since reading your book. Now I am trying to be more kind to everyone and I think of everyone as equals.

The lesson I learned from *The Outsiders* is that everyone sees the same sunset. No matter if you are rich or poor, tall or short, girl or boy, the sunset is the same for everyone. I have learned to stop and think about what I am going to say before I say it just to make sure it isn't going to hurt anybody. I stop and think before I do anything just so it won't hurt others. Your book has affected my life in so many good ways and I thank you for it. Everyone sees the same sunset - those five little words had an impact on me that I will never forget.

Sincerely,



Kimber Hopkins