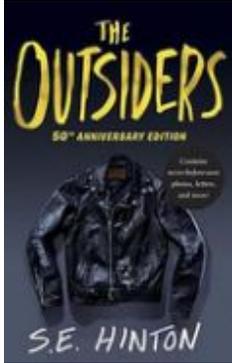


Phoenix Academy 8th Grade Summer Reading

Required Reading: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton



No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. And when it comes to the Socs—a vicious gang of rich kids who enjoy beating up on "greasers" like him and his friends—he knows that he can count on them for trouble. But one night someone takes things too far, and Ponyboy's world is turned upside down...

Book Trailer :<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0izmGO60fW4>

In addition, choose ONE of the following:

***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen**



When Jessica is told she'll never run again, she puts herself back together— and learns to dream bigger than ever before. The acclaimed author of *Flipped* delivers a powerful and healing story. Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REi-lCauL74>

***The Brooklyn Nine* by Alan Gatz**



Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Each member of this family, from family founder Felix Schneider in the 1800s to Snider Flint in the present day, has a strong tie to the game and to Brooklyn. Through the years this family has dodged bullets on a battlefield, pitched perfect games, and dealt with the devastating loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Nine innings, nine generations. One game, one family. Through it all, one thing remains true: the bonds of family are as strong as a love of the game.

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGuMUoJjudc>

8th grade summer reading assignment- Complete a 5 paragraph discussion essay that addresses the questions below in order. This should be typed in a 12 pt font and written in complete sentences. Each paragraph should be 5-7 sentences.

1) Although published and set in the 1960's, how is *The Outsiders* still relevant to modern teenagers today?

2) Which character had the biggest impact on you personally and explain why.

3) Pretend you're a social worker. Would you recommend that Darry continue to raise Pony and Soda? Why or why not? If you say "yes," what advice would you give each of the Curtis brothers?

4) What do you think is the theme or the central message that S.E. Hinton was trying to convey in her first novel, *The Outsiders*.

5) Cherry describes what she feels is the biggest difference between the Greasers and Socs. Do you agree with her? What do you think is the biggest issue that divides the two groups?

We will work on completing a project with your choice book the first weeks of school.