

Theme Grid (underlying message)		
Author/ novel	'The Outsiders' by S.E. Hinton	
What is a theme?	A theme is the topic or the main message in a story, poem, book, film, song, etc.	
	Moments the novel	Quotes
Theme 1- Prejudice: based on your socio-economic background		
How is the theme introduced	When Ponyboy first explains why the Socs and the Greasers hate each other, and also explains how society views them differently.	"... the Socials, the jet set, the West-side rich kids...the term 'greaser', which is used to class all us boys on the East Side. We're poorer than the Socs, and the middle class." pg 3
How does the theme develop (expand/progress/ change)	The biggest change in the theme probably comes at the end of the novel when the two groups sort of stop being so violent towards each other, and form a sort of understanding with the help of Ponyboy. There would still be fights, that much is obvious, but I think the animosity between the groups was reduced considerably.	(I couldn't find a quote for this point)
What interested you about the theme	What I found interesting was how, at the start, I assumed Ponyboy would resent the Socs for seeming to have perfect lives. But as the book progressed, I found out that Ponyboy didn't resent them at all (he was almost indifferent). He could understand them, with the help of some insight from Cherry. I thought that that said a lot about Ponyboy's character.	"Why did the Socs hate us so much? We left them alone." pg 20
What you learned or understood about the theme (moral)	I learnt that you can't make a valid and fair judgement of someone purely based on their	"Someone should tell their side of the story, and maybe people wouldn't be so quick to judge a

	backgrounds, whether social, economic or otherwise.	boy by the amount of hair oil he wore.” pg 215
How is the theme important for the main characters	<p>I think Ponyboy has a hard time wrapping his head around the fact that people base their opinions on him as a person based on how much money he has and where he lives.</p> <p>I think the only good thing to come out of it that the Greasers have and the Socs don't is friends who'll stick with you no matter what. The Greaser gangs are a tight knit community within a community. They are loyal to each other, and I think what unites them is how the rest of society looks down on them. So they band together to form their own group. The Socs, from what I can see, aren't like that. They don't seem to be as closely-knit as the Greasers. They're all a bit more distant from each other, sort of separate, and there is a huge difference between a team, and a group of individuals.</p>	<p>“It seems like there's gotta be someplace without Greasers or Socs, with just people. Plain ordinary people.” pg 57</p>
<p>Is this theme universal in today's world? Can you identify with it?</p>	<p>I do think people tend to judge others based on what their job is, where they live, how much money they make and where they come from. But you generally see it in rich people - they seem to think that their money makes them better than others. Of course, you see it in less well-off people as well. If anyone with more money than them tries to help them, they automatically assume they pity them, or they're trying to do it to gain moral points, or they're even making fun of them for not having money, when sometimes they just want to help. I think it's probably just something that's built into humans in general.</p> <p>Personally, people don't generally tend to judge me based on how much money I have or what my parents do or anything like that. When I was in primary school, it was a bit important, but not really. You'd tell someone you had branded clothes and they might call you a rich kid for a while, but everyone would quickly forget.</p> <p>It's not as prominent here in Ireland (at least, not from what I see), but I suppose it would be in more far-flung countries such</p>	

as Saudi Arabia and even China and Japan.

Theme 2 - Identity; being true to yourself

How is the theme introduced		
How does the theme develop (expand/progress/ change)		
What interested you about the theme		
What you learned or understood about the theme (moral)		
How is the theme important for the main characters		
Is this theme universal in today' s world? Can you identify with it?		

Theme 3 - Violence: violence does not solve the problem

How is the theme introduced		
How does the theme develop (expand/progress/ change)		
What interested you about the theme		
What you learned or understood about the theme (moral)		
How is the theme important for the main characters		
s this theme universal in today' s world? Can you identify with it?		