

Name _____

Period _____

Pre-Reading Preparation
Author Biography: S.E. Hinton



Susan Eloise Hinton was born on July 22, 1948 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A self-confessed tomboy, Hinton grew up wanting to be a cowboy or a writer. She was an avid reader, but found the young-adult books she read rather unoriginal and unrealistic. At age sixteen, aggravated with the social climate at her high school and frustrated with the quality of available reading materials, Hinton took pen to paper and wrote one of the most-read and loved books for young adults: *The Outsiders*. This first edition, published in 1967, was an instant success, earning numerous awards.

Hinton wrote *The Outsiders* under the pen name S.E. Hinton, after publishers expressed concern that a woman's name on the book would keep boys, the target audience, from reading it. The trick worked, and *The Outsiders* became an instant young-adult classic, enjoyed by boys and girls alike.

After writing *The Outsiders*, Hinton suffered from writer's block, which caused her to plummet into a depression. After some soul searching and a big nudge from her boyfriend at the time, Hinton wrote the acclaimed *That Was Then, This Is Now* which was published in 1971. She married her then-boyfriend, David, in 1970, and they eventually had a son, Nicholas, in 1983.

In 1975, S.E. Hinton published *Rumble Fish*, then *Tex* in 1979. In 1983, the movie, *The Outsiders*, was released. Hinton worked closely with the director, Francis Ford Coppola and with up-and-coming stars Tom Cruise, Matt Dillon and Rob Lowe. Later, *Rumble Fish*, *Tex* and *That Was Then, This Is Now* were also made into movies. In 1988, she wrote *Taming the Star Runner* and in 1995, deviated from writing for young adults and wrote two children's books, *The Puppy Sister* and *Big David, Little David*.

After almost 20 years, Hinton made a literary comeback with the adult novel, *Hawkes Harbor*, which was published in 2004. Although *Hawkes Harbor* is a far more mature and complex novel than her earlier works, Hinton continues to captivate and entertain readers, just as she did with her very first novel.