

*This guide was prepared using the 1998 Puffin Books edition, © 1971. Other editions may differ.*

**SYNOPSIS**

Sixteen-year-old Bryon Douglas and his unofficially adopted 15-year-old brother Mark, who came to live with Bryon and Mrs. Douglas when he was nine after his own parents shot and killed each other in a violent, drunken argument, have been inseparable best buddies for longer than either of them can remember. But now Bryon is growing up and questioning the casual violence and lawlessness of his life with Mark, and their brotherly friendship is threatened. The story of this year of change is narrated in a typically Hintonesque way by a direct, honest, and confused Bryon.

**Chap. 1:** The novel opens in a bar/pool hall run by 22-year-old Charlie, a friend of Bryon's. Charlie warns Bryon (big and dark) and Mark (a lion with golden hair and eyes) that they are going to get into big trouble someday because of their pool hustling; he also tells them to pay their "bar" (soda) bill by tomorrow or he'll have to beat them up. Out on the street, the boys save a sweet, trusting younger friend and budding flower child nicknamed M&M from a random beating by Curly Shepard and two other hoods. Mark picks the pocket of one of the hoods for the bar bill money; stealing has been a routine for Mark since he was six years old. When Mark suggests he and Bryon jump an anonymous black pedestrian and M&M objects, Bryon finds himself uncharacteristically agreeing with M&M's arguments against beating up people just because they are different.

**Chap. 2:** Bryon's mom, who loves the two boys but lets them lead their own lives, is in the hospital for an expensive operation that has already cost the family their car, their TV, and their telephone service. Going to visit her, Bryon and Mark hitch a ride with a hippie, who tells them all about the big old house he and friends rent and live in communally. At the hospital's basement snack bar, Bryon encounters M&M's older sister Cathy Carlson, who has just returned from a year away looking really cute. Upstairs, Mark and Bryon visit with a lonely boy named Mike Chambers across the hall from Mrs. Douglas. Mike is badly injured; after protecting a black girl from members of his gang, he drove the girl home, and she then told her friends surrounding the car to "kill the white bastard." Still, Mike says, he does not hate the girl or the guys who beat him up, because he can almost understand why they did it. Bryon silently thinks he might agree, but Mark replies that he would surely hate anyone who ever hurt him like that for the rest of his life.

**Chap. 3:** Bryon borrows Charlie's car to take Cathy to a school dance; Cathy is worried about how her father constantly gripes about M&M's long hair and two poor grades—M&M is too sensitive for this, she says. At the dance, Bryon has a brief encounter with his previous girlfriend, Angela Shepard, a beautiful girl who broke up with him so she could pursue Ponyboy Curtis, who turned out to be so shy and

unconceited, he did not even notice Angela's interest in him. Suddenly, Bryon is called to the parking lot, where Mark is unconscious with a gash in his head. Angela had gotten a guy to attack Ponyboy, and when the hood picked up a bottle, Mark interfered and got hit and almost killed. Bryon accompanies Mark to the hospital to be stitched up and then takes him home.

**Chap. 4:** Recuperating at home for a day or two, Mark reminisces with Bryon about the old days of gang fights and gang togetherness, a phase in their lives that has passed by. Mark regrets the change; Bryon accepts it, saying, "That was then, and this is now." A few days later, Mark is caught "borrowing" the school principal's car to provide needed transportation for his weekly visit to his probation officer to repledge that he will not hot-wire and "borrow" cars any more. As always, Mark talks himself out of the trouble. "You can get away with anything," Bryon remarks. "I guess so," Mark smiles.

**Chap. 5:** A typical night of pool hustling at Charlie's Bar for Bryon and Mark ends in disaster. Their marks this time corner the boys as they leave the bar and prepare to beat them severely. Charlie appears with a sawed-off shotgun to save the boys. Shots are fired, and Charlie is killed. Bryon is troubled by why this had to happen. Mark's reaction is that "things happen, that's all there is to it." Because Mark does not understand and Cathy does, Bryon finds himself getting closer to her while the first distance of their lives grows between the pseudo-brothers. The police give the Douglas family Charlie's car.

**Chap. 6:** Mrs. Douglas cannot go back to work for a month, so household money is very tight. Bryon decides he can get a job if he changes his smart-alecky, mouthy attitude, at least outwardly. Mark says he too will bring in money. One night driving along the local cruising strip called the Ribbon, the hostility between Mark and Cathy caused by their competition for Bryon comes out, and true to Cathy's prediction, M&M disappears, stating "I'm not going home."

**Chap. 7:** M&M stays away from home, Bryon gets a job in a supermarket, and Mark brings in a steady supply of money, too, which Bryon assumes he must be winning at poker, as usual. Bryon's relationship with Cathy, in contrast with his previous operation as a playboy, deepens into love. One night on the Ribbon, Bryon and Mark encounter a drunk Angela, who complains about how lousy her newly married life is. They drive Angela out to the lake, where Bryon gets drunk as well. Mark cuts off all of Angela's beautiful, waist-length black hair—revenge for setting up Ponyboy and getting him slashed. Talking later that night, Mark tells Bryon to stop trying to figure out why things happen. That gets you old, and then you cannot get away with things any more as you can when you're a kid. You have to just take things as they come, Mark insists.

**Chap. 8:** Mark takes Bryon to the big old communal hippie

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house, where M&M has been staying, but the youngster is not there this day. Bryon wonders why Mark seems so familiar with the place. That evening sitting alone on a friend's porch thinking about how much things have changed between himself and Mark, Bryon is confronted by Curly and Tim Shepard. Bryon sincerely apologizes for cutting off Angela's hair (even though Mark did it), in return for which the Shepard brothers attack him. Later, Bryon stops Mark from getting a group together to take revenge for this latest assault.

**Chap. 9:** Bryon repeats to Mark that he's sick of the cycle of beating up people and getting beat up; he does not hate the Shepards for their actions any more than Mike Chambers hated the black youths who assaulted him. Mark cannot understand. A few days later, Bryon and Cathy go back to the hippie house and find M&M in the middle of a dreadful acid trip, terrified of spiders in his stomach that are chewing on him. They rush M&M to the hospital.

**Chap. 10:** The doctors fear that M&M may have lost his mind permanently. Back home, empty and drained from the experience with M&M and from comforting a hysterical Cathy, Bryon looks under Mark's mattress for a cigarette, and finds a cylinder full of pills. Suddenly the source of Mark's money is clear. M&M may be messed up for life, and Mark is selling the stuff that made the youngster that way, even if he did not sell directly to M&M. Bryon calls the cops. Mark comes home a few minutes later and is stunned when the police arrive and arrest him. "Why are you doing this to me, buddy?" he asks desperately.

**Chap. 11:** The next morning, Bryon can no longer justify what he did to Mark. When Cathy arrives to empathize with him, Bryon discovers he no longer has any feelings for her. At the court proceedings, Mark for the first time ever does not try to talk his way out of his predicament; his amused, nonchalant manner earns him five years in the state reformatory. A few months later, Bryon runs into M&M; the youngster has only partially recovered. Visiting Mark at the reformatory, Bryon discovers that his childhood friend/brother has turned into a hard, sinister stranger who probably wants to kill him. The novel closes with a very confused Bryon asking himself "what if" and wondering if he could or would have done anything different. "I wish I was a kid again," he concludes, "when I had all the answers."

### TIME LINE

<b>September</b>	School year starts. Bryon and Mark save M&M from attack, Bryon meets Cathy.
<b>Saturday</b>	Soon after, school dance: Bryon and Cathy's first date, the parking-lot fight involving Mark.
<b>weeks later</b>	Charlie shot to death while protecting Mark and Bryon from thugs they had hustled at pool.
<b>winter</b>	Mrs. Douglas bedridden; Bryon gets super-market job; Mark brings home money regularly; M&M disappears.
<b>early spring</b>	Mark cuts off Angela's hair; Shepards beat up Bryon.
<b>4-5 days later</b>	Bryon and Cathy find M&M at hippie house, take him to hospital. Bryon discovers Mark's drug stash and calls police, who arrest Mark.
<b>August</b>	Bryon sees Mark for the last time, at the state reformatory.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Susan Eloise Hinton was catapulted to the forefront of young adult authorship when she was just seventeen years old. She was born in 1950 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she grew up and has lived for most of her life; Tulsa is the unnamed small urban setting of many of her novels. Hinton began writing in grammar school, mostly about cowboys (which she wanted to be) and horses (which she wanted to own).

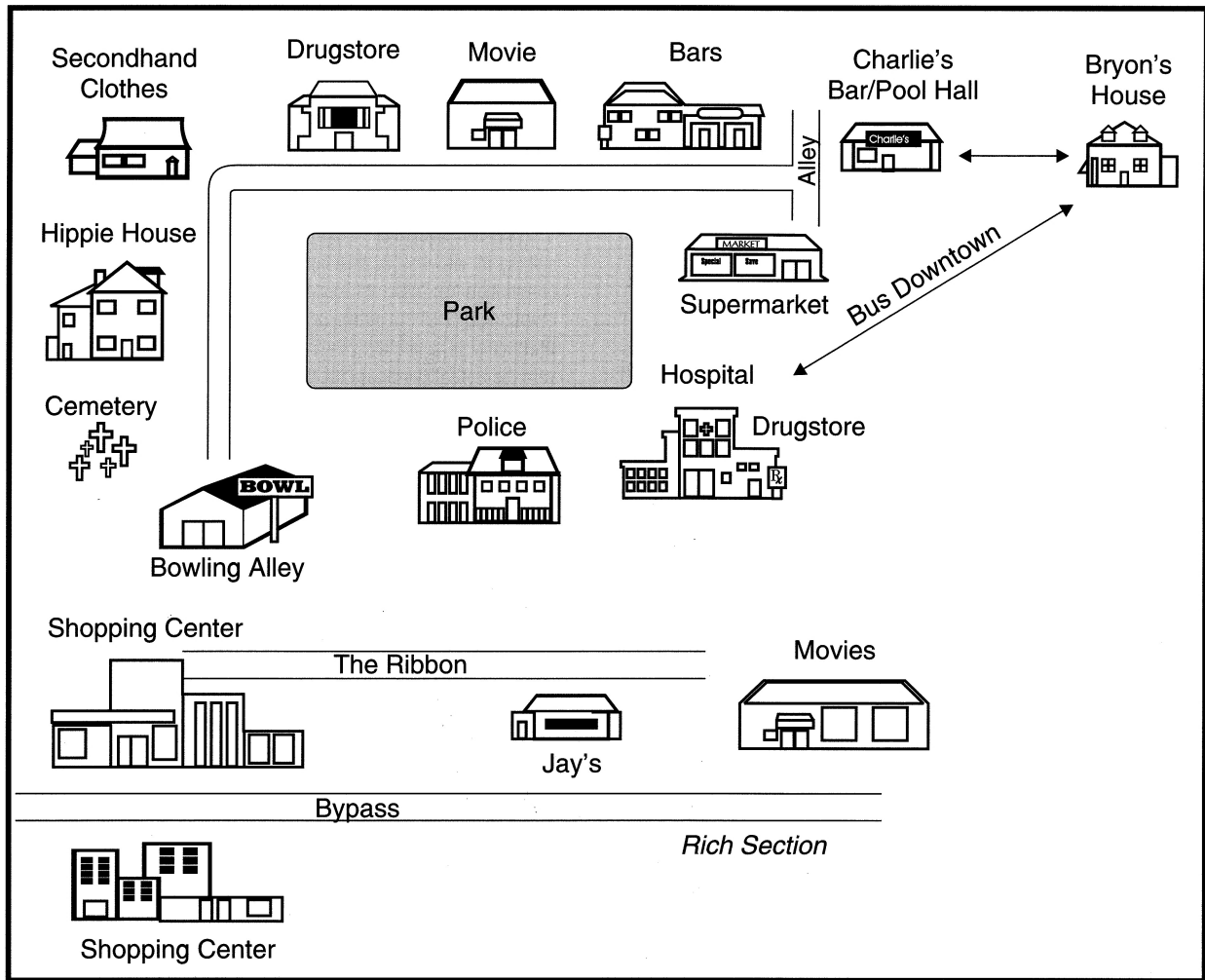
She began the first draft of her first novel, *The Outsiders*, when she was just fifteen, attending Will Rogers High School in Tulsa. The plot revolves around the violent conflict between greasers and upper-class "Socs," a social environment Hinton (not a member of any group herself) was familiar with at her school. During the year and a half Hinton was writing the novel, she also earned a D in a creative writing course. Her motivation for writing was to create some realistic fiction for teenagers, in place of the insipid romances, sports stories, and girl-and-her-horse tales prevalent at the time. The publication of *The Outsiders* in 1967 when Hinton was seventeen revolutionized young adult fiction. Many critics consider this novel the first example of the New Realism in YA literature. It dealt with many topics new to the genre: violence, clashes between upper- and lower-class kids, the thoughts and feelings and experiences of machismo-acting "greaser" protagonists, dysfunctional families, drugs and alcohol, law-breaking, gangs. While some parents and authorities were dismayed about these aspects of the novel, its authentic voice made it a huge bestseller among teen readers.

Hinton used money she earned from the novel to help pay her tuition at the University of Tulsa, where she met her future husband David Inhofe. In 1970, she earned her degree in education and married Inhofe; the couple later had one son. The acclaim she garnered for authoring *The Outsiders* had created a severe writing block for Hinton. While they were dating, David forced her out of the block by insisting she write two pages a day, or they could not see each other that evening. In this manner, page by page, Hinton crafted *That Was Then, This Is Now*, published in 1971. Narrated, like its predecessor, in the direct and honest voice of a confused teenage male, this novel explores the changing relationship between two formerly inseparable foster brothers as one begins to grow and change and the other resists the process.

*Rumble Fish* appeared in 1975, and *Tex* followed in 1979. Both continue in the S. E. Hinton tradition of first-person teenage male narration dealing with delinquent youths, violence, and dysfunctional families. Starting in 1982, Hinton became involved in the filming of her immensely popular novels, doing some of the scriptwriting and assisting on the set in many ways. A shy and non-group person, Hinton was delighted to discover she enjoyed her work with the movie people, and she liked the finished film adaptations. *Tex* was released in 1982, starring Matt Dillon as Tex and Hinton's own horse as the novel's Negrito. Films of *The Outsiders* and *Rumble Fish*, both also starring Dillon, appeared in 1983. *That Was Then, This Is Now*, starring Emilio Estevez, followed in 1985.

Hinton produced another young adult novel, *Taming the Star Runner*, published in 1988, again with a troubled teen

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male protagonist. In the 1990s Hinton switched genres, writing *Big David*, *Little David* (1994), a picture-book reader, and *The Puppy Sister* (1995), a whimsical tale about a puppy transforming into a human girl. Both of these were well-received by the critics.

**CRITICS' CORNER**

Hinton's groundbreaking and lasting contribution to young adult fiction was recognized in 1988, when Hinton received the first American Library Association/*School Library Journal* Author Achievement award for her body of work. Hinton brought new features to YA fiction: realistic characters who talk and act like real teenagers, settings that are far removed from the comfortable upper-middle-class milieu of earlier novels for young people, and complex, real-world challenges such as poverty, substance abuse, violence, and dysfunctional families. A few critics argue that events and teenage characters in Hinton's novels are far from typical in most teens' experiences, but youthful readers have made the books enormous best-sellers from their first appearance. *That Was Then, This Is Now* features elements shared by other Hinton young adult novels: the story is narrated in a direct, honest, first-person voice by a teenage protagonist; this narrator is a tough, macho yet tender lower-class boy, a "hood" or "greaser" type who struggles to cope with changing

relationships and circumstances as he begins to mature; the novel deals with the inevitable loss of youthful innocence; violence is commonplace in the lives of the novel's characters; adults are largely absent or irrelevant to the lives of the novel's teenage characters; female characters tend to be stereotypical or largely irrelevant (Cathy in *That Was Then, This Is Now* is a partial exception, while Angela is typical); dialogue is immediate and believable; families are dysfunctional.

Critics generally admired *That Was Then, This Is Now* as more mature and disciplined than *The Outsiders* and described it as starkly realistic, powerful, and disturbing, even though its narrator remains confused by what has happened and the conclusion offers no solutions. The *Saturday Review* found the characters "wholly believable." Horn Book summed up, "Bryon's final commitment to himself and to his future is harshly and realistically underlined in an ending that offers no pat promises. This is a disturbing book..., but it will speak directly to a large number of teenagers." *Library Journal* concluded, "An excellent, insightful mustering of the pressures on some teen-agers today, offering no slick solutions but not without hope either."

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

1. To become familiar with some of the many social problems that inner-city teens must deal with as they mature

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2. To consider possible reactions and consequences when one friend discovers another is doing something illegal
3. To explore the point of balance between parental/adult restrictiveness and young people's need for independence
4. To discuss the experience of violence and ways to deal with and avoid it
5. To examine the bonds of friendship, the limits of friendship, and the issue of betrayal within a friendship.
6. To analyze the inevitability of change over time
7. To consider these contrasting reactions to life's events: accepting whatever happens versus thinking about why things happen and how they might have been different
8. To identify some ways in which families may be dysfunctional and the effects of those family difficulties on family members

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the differences between Bryon and Mark, and the reasons why their brotherly bond is placed under strain and then broken
2. To understand the family dynamics in the Douglas, Carlson, and Shepard households
3. To examine the use of violence as a plot element in the novel
4. To identify the differences Bryon experiences between "then" and "now" in the course of the novel
5. To analyze both Bryon's and Mark's reactions to the concept of change over time, and the forces that drive these reactions
6. To examine and discuss Bryon's shattering decision at the end of the novel
7. To trace the author's changing use of the lion image for Mark throughout the novel
8. To note various instances of foreshadowing in the novel
9. To consider alternative plot-development possibilities and points of view

### LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

To enhance students' appreciation and understanding of the novel, present them with these terms.

**allusion:** a usually brief, often casual reference to some other person, event, or thing. In this novel, the reference to Ponyboy Curtis having "been in a lot of trouble before" and therefore "being a kind of folk-hero" is an allusion to the events in Hinton's earlier novel, *The Outsiders*, in which Ponyboy was the protagonist.

**extended metaphor:** a comparison between one thing and another carried throughout a novel or story. In *That Was Then, This Is Now*, the metaphor of Mark as a lion is carried throughout. It changes from innocent and friendly to threatening and sinister as Bryon's perception of Mark changes. Comprehension Study Question #9 asks students to trace this changing extended metaphor through the novel.

**first-person narration:** the telling of a novel or short story in the voice of one of the characters in the novel, giving that person's personal point of view of events. (Sometimes a novel may have more than one first-person narrator.) In this novel, Bryon is the narrator, and the changes he has experienced and the things that have happened confuse and disturb him, so no solution is offered at the novel's end. Ask the students how the novel would be different in another voice,

especially that of an impersonal narrator—less open-ended, perhaps, but less effective?

**foreshadowing:** hints or suggestions about something that will occur later in a novel. This novel contains several instances of foreshadowing, as when Charlie warns Bryon and Mark that they will get into serious trouble some day through their pool hustling. Comprehension Study Question #10 asks students to identify instances of foreshadowing in the novel.

**"new realism"** : as applied to young adult literature, the move to deal with the real, serious, and often disturbing problems teens face in real life, such as violence, drug abuse, dysfunctional families and social conflict. These are all issues that are a part of *That Was Then, This Is Now*. The move was a reaction against the unrealistic young adult novels that commonly dealt with the trauma of whether Mary Jane could get a date with the football captain, whether Chip could carry his baseball team to victory, or whether Susie would find happiness with her horse. Hinton's first novel, *The Outsiders*, published in 1967, is considered by many critics as the first young adult novel in the new realism mode.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING

Most of the novel's settings are only sketchily described. The overall setting is a small, unspecified U.S. city (presumably Tulsa, S. E. Hinton's home town), with most of the action occurring in the gritty lower-class section where Bryon and Mark live with Bryon's mother in a small house. The boys share a tiny room in the house where they often talk, reminiscing about the "old" days and wondering about changes in life; it is here that the novel climaxes when Bryon finds Mark's drugs and turns his foster brother in to the police. The novel opens at Charlie's bar and pool hall, where Bryon and Mark hang out and hustle pool; in the alley behind the bar, Charlie is shot to death while protecting the boys from a beating. These streets are mean; Bryon and Mark save M&M from a random beating here. Some scenes take place at the downtown charity hospital, where Bryon and Mark visit Mrs. Douglas, Bryon meets Cathy, Mike Chambers tells about his beatings, both Mark and Bryon get stitched up on separate occasions, and M&M is evaluated. Bryon and Mark's high school is the scene of a school dance that is the occasion of Bryon and Cathy's first date; in the parking lot, Angela's thug attacks Ponyboy and slashes Mark. On the west side of town is the Ribbon, the local cruising strip, full of hamburger stands and drive-ins, frequented by both greasers and Socs; M&M disappears here, and Mark picks up the drunk Angela here before taking her to the lake and cutting off her hair. In an old part of town is the big old communal hippie house where M&M has taken refuge and where Bryon and Cathy find him in the middle of a very bad acid trip. At the end of the novel, Bryon sees Mark for the last time, visiting at the state reformatory, and discovering that time in jail has turned his foster brother into a "jungle animal" with "hard, flat eyes."

### CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

For more information about S.E. Hinton, young adult literature, adolescence, the 1960s, violence, drug use, and other subjects and issues deriving from the novel, consult these sources:

- Jules Archer, *The Incredible Sixties: The Stormy Years That Changed America*  
Stevan E. Atanasoff, *How to Survive as a Teen: When No One Understands*

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- Wayne Coffey, *Straight Talk About Drinking: Teenagers Speak Out About Alcohol*
- Robert deRopp, *Drugs and the Mind*
- Edward F. Dolan, Jr., *Protect Your Legal Rights: A Handbook for Teenagers*
- Andrew Edelstein & Kevin McDonough, *The Seventies: From Hotpants to Hot Tubs*
- Nora Ephron, *Teenage Romance, or How to Die of Embarrassment*
- Greg Felsen, *Can You Do It Until You Need Glasses? The Different Drug Book*
- Donald R. Gallo, ed., *No Easy Answers: Short Stories About Teenagers Making Tough Choices*
- Michael Garrett, *The Seventies*
- Todd Gitlin, *The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage*
- Sol Gordon, *The Teenage Survival Book*
- James Haskins & Kathleen Benson, *The 60s Reader*
- Herb Hendler, *Year by Year in the Rock Era*
- Maria Hinojosa, *Crews: Gang Members Talk to Maria Hinojosa*
- S. E. Hinton, "Teenagers Are for Real," *New York Times Book Review*, Aug. 27, 1967, pp. 26-30.
- Tom Jackson, *Guerrilla Tactics in the Job Market*
- Dennis T. Jaffe & Ted Clark, *Worlds Apart: Young People and Drug Programs*
- John Javna & Gordon Javna, *60s!*
- Elaine Landau, *Teenage Violence*
- Susan Lang, *Teen Violence*
- Nancy Larrick, ed., *I Heard a Scream in the Street: Poetry by Young People in the City*
- Barbara Moe, *Coping as a Survivor of Violent Crime*
- Joan Morrison and Robert K. Morrison, *From Camelot to Kent State: The Sixties Experience in the Words of Those Who Lived It*
- Sandra Lee Smith, *Coping with Decision Making*
- Alan Sussman, *The Rights of Young People: An American Civil Liberties Union Handbook*
- Ann E. Weiss, *Lies, Deception and Truth*
- Also, consult these web sites:
- "Bullying: A Survival Guide," <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/bully/deal.htm>
- "The Bullying Problem," <http://home.navisoft.com/aapa/bully1.htm>
- "Crisis, Grief, and Healing," <http://www.webhealing.com>
- "Leadership," <http://www.unca.edu/Leadership/bibliography.htm>
- "Oklahoma Center for the Book," <http://www.state.ok.us/~odl/ocb/97win.htm>
- "S. E. Hinton," <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~rameseyil/hinton.htm>

### THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in *That Was Then, This Is Now* should include these aspects.

#### Themes

- the inevitability of change
- the futility of violence
- brotherhood, betrayal, and the passing of friendship
- the loss of innocence
- acceptance of whatever happens vs. thinking about why things happen and how they might have been different
- developing social responsibility and accepting consequences for your actions

#### Motifs

- social class tensions
- dysfunctional families
- substance abuse
- racism
- animal imagery
- law-breaking

#### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it relates to the book. Use the chapter and page numbers given in parentheses to reread the term in context if you wish.

1. I look like a baby-faced kid who wouldn't know one ball from another. This, and the way Mark set me up, helped me hustle a lot of pool games. (Chap. 1, p. 9)  
(Bryon earns money by hustling pool. That is, he pretends to be a so-so player and lures other players into games with him, betting money that goes to the winner of the match. Bryon will lose a game or two, by a few balls, ensuring that his opponent will want to keep playing; then Bryon starts winning, because he's actually a very good pool player. The opponent will keep on betting and losing, thinking that Bryon's just being lucky for a while. Bryon's baby-faced looks lull his opponents into thinking of him as an innocent kid, not a cunning hustler, and Mark helps keep things going by pretending to try to get Bryon to quit and go home ("Come on, Bryon, you lost all the money you can spare.") while Bryon plays the eager kid ("I know I can win the next game.")
2. Mark could hot-wire anything. (Chap. 1, p. 16)  
(Hot-wiring is a way of starting a vehicle's engine without using the ignition key. Mark, the habitual thief, has been hot-wiring cars and taking them on joyrides since he was twelve years old. Mark does not consider this to be stealing; he says it's just borrowing.)
3. He finally got caught at it, so now once a week he had to go downtown...to see his probation officer. (Chap. 1, p. 16)  
(Mark was finally caught by the police while he was driving a "borrowed" car he had started by hot-wiring. Mark is now on probation, which means he was convicted of auto theft but his sentence was suspended; he is free but must remain on good behavior, not breaking any laws, and must report every week to the judicial system official who is supervising this period of probation. Later in the novel, Mark talks himself out of another jam when officials discover that Mark has been hot-wiring the high school principal's car during the lunch period and using it for transportation to get to the weekly meetings with his probation officer to promise he will not hot-wire cars any more.)
4. "Lord Bryon, were you named after him?" (Chap. 1, p. 17)  
(M&M is confusing the name Bryon with the name of the famous romantic poet Lord Byron. Bryon strings M&M along by saying yes, he was named after Lord "Bryon." Mark, the nonreader and nonacademic, is impressed; he does not know that M&M has gotten the name wrong either.)
5. It was a charity hospital. (Chap. 2, p. 33)  
(A charity hospital is one that is run by a nonprofit orga-

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nization to provide services to poor and uninsured people who could not otherwise afford hospital care. The fact that Mike Chambers is at this hospital confirms for Bryon that Mike must be from a poor neighborhood like his own. The fact that Bryon's mother is also a patient at this hospital underscores the Douglas family's low-income status.)

6. We fought Socs and we fought other greaser gangs. (Chap. 4, p. 66)

*("Socs" is short for "socials," the upper-middle-class kids that the lower-class kids, the "greasers," fight with. Bryon and Mark were part of a greaser gang when they were younger. The fact that the gang has dissolved because its members have slipped away and moved on makes Mark sad, but Bryon thinks it's okay, a part of inevitable change. [The tensions between Socs and greasers are a focus of the plot of Hinton's first book, The Outsiders.]*

7. In these days, with all that love, peace, and groove stuff, the fights had slacked off. (Chap. 4, p. 70)

*(The time is around 1970; the Socs have gotten into the hippie-scene ethos of love, flower power, and nonviolence—do not be confrontational, be laid-back, groove. Accordingly, the violent confrontations between Socs and greasers that used to be a common feature of youth life in Bryon's world are happening much less often.)*

8. Integration in our school wasn't really swinging yet .... [T]hey could talk about the Black Revolution and the Panthers. (Chap. 4, pp. 71-72)

*(In 1970, integration in public schools outside of the Deep South was barely beginning. In this novel's town, modeled after Hinton's home town of Tulsa, not many blacks are attending Bryon's high school yet, because blacks live in a different part of town that is not part of this school district, a common cause of de facto segregation in northern public school systems. Bryon imagines the "hip" and "liberal" Soc kids expecting blacks to talk about the current black power movement and the radical Black Panthers group, which Bryon imagines the poor black kids from across town whom he knows would have as little familiarity with as he has with the politics of Right and Left.)*

9. "Talk to his travel agent." "Man, that kid is on a bad trip." (Chap. 9, pp. 137-38)

*(M&M has taken LSD, or dropped acid, and he's reacted very badly, having terrifying hallucinations. The person who sent him on this bad trip is his "travel agent"—Red, the man who gave M&M the LSD.)*

10. the state reformatory...the state prison (Chap. 11, pp. 153 & 157)

*(Initially, Mark is sent to serve his five-year sentence at the state reformatory, a jail facility for young or first offenders that puts its emphasis on training and reformation of its inmates. Since Mark is only sixteen, this is the logical place for him, and it represents his chance to straighten out. But Bryon's betrayal and the shock of actually having to suffer consequences for his illegal acts have turned Mark hard and cynical. Rather than cooperate with officials' attempts to rehabilitate him, Mark is so difficult and causes so much trouble at the reformatory that he is being transferred to the state prison, a place whose harsh environment and career criminals are sure to confirm Mark's evolution into a hardened sociopath.*

*[This likely outcome is confirmed in Hinton's subsequent novel, Tex.]*

## COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important, and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Questions 1-4 (Literal Level)

1. What physical and character differences between Bryon and Mark do we learn about as the novel opens?  
*(Physically, Bryon is big and growing taller, with dark hair and eyes—"the kind who looks like a Saint Bernard puppy," he says. Mark, on the other hand, is small and compact, although strong, and he has golden hair and strange golden eyes to match. Bryon lies easily, and hustles both the girls and unsuspecting pool players. Mark is a chronic thief who treats stealing as a game for fun and profit; his charm always allows him to get away with his transgressions when he's caught at them. Bryon does not mind that Mark steals things, but Bryon does realize that it's wrong, or at least against the law. In the past, Mark and Bryon have enjoyed fights and gang life together, but Bryon is beginning to question his interest in and enjoyment of this part of his life; Mark is hanging on to his go-with-the-flow-of-events and don't-worry attitude toward life.)*
2. What are the relationships among Bryon, Mark, and Mrs. Douglas?  
*(Mark and Bryon have been best friends and in effect brothers as long as either of them can remember; they complement each other perfectly and never fight each other. Mark came to live with Mrs. Douglas and Bryon at the age of nine after his parents killed each other in an argument over Mark's illegitimacy, an argument and joint shooting that Mark overheard. Mark says he was glad to join the Douglas family, because he was tired of living at home with his parents' fights and the whippings he received regularly. Bryon is glad his mother has taken Mark in and given him a live-in brother. Mrs. Douglas, who is only a sketchily developed character, loves both boys, and they feel close to her, but she has a very distant connection with the boys' actual lives. She does not know much about the details of their daily lives, does not object to anything much that they do so long as it does not get them expelled from school, and does not monitor their comings and goings.)*
3. Describe the Carlsons and the Shepards, the other families in the novel.  
*(The Carlsons are a close family with two working parents and a lot of kids. They are not well-off economically, but everybody in the family cares about each other and tries to act like decent people. However, M&M and his father are in a very difficult time in their relationship. Mr. Carlson constantly criticizes M&M for his hippie appearance and flunking grades in math and gym, finally driving the sensitive youngster to leave home. The Shepards are very dysfunctional; Bryon remembers the mother, stepfather, and brothers always fighting and screaming and throwing things when he came to pick up Angela for dates, with Angela often getting into the action too.)*
4. What instances of violence occur in the novel, and what

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triggers each one?

*(The novel abounds in violence, which is a fact of life in Bryon and Mark's gritty world. In the first Chap., Curly Shepard and two other hoods start to beat M&M, because he's a defenseless flower child. Bryon and Mark are happy to jump Shepard and the others to save M&M. Mike Chambers is in the hospital recovering from an incredible battering inflicted by blacks who thought he had hurt a black girl he was actually taking home in order to protect her from his own gang; angry at whites, the girl had urged her friends to "kill the white bastard" even though Mike had helped her. At the school dance, a thug incited by Angela attacks Ponyboy and then gashes Mark with a bottle when he interferes with the attack. Next, two men Bryon and Mark have hustled at pool corner the boys in an alley and prepare to beat them; Charlie intervenes with a shotgun, shots are fired, and Charlie is killed. At the lake, Mark cuts off all of Angela's beautiful long hair, and in retaliation her brothers brutally assault Bryon, who they think is the culprit.)*

### Questions 5-8 (Interpretive Level)

5. What theme of the novel do the many instances of violence express, especially Bryon's reaction to them?

*(The novel overall expresses the idea that violence is futile. None of the instances of violence solve the problem that caused the violence to occur. In Charlie's case, his attempt to stop the violence results in his death. In other cases, violence simply begets more violence. Curly Shepard attacks M&M; Mark and Bryon attack Curly in response; Angela gets a thug to attack Ponyboy, which results in Mark's injury; Mark gets back by cutting off Angela's hair; Curly, already mad at Bryon and Mark for the earlier attack, revenges his sister by beating Bryon. After this incident, Bryon recognizes the futility of the cycle and tells Mark not to retaliate on his behalf: "I don't want to keep this up, this getting-even jazz. It's stupid and I'm sick of it and it keeps going in circles." Bryon discovers he does not hate the Shepards for beating him up any more than Mike Chambers hates the black men who beat him up, understanding as he did why it happened.)*

6. What differences between "then" and "now" does Bryon experience in the course of the novel?

*(Bryon changes from an immature, unthinking child to a maturing young adult in the course of the novel. This change causes him to view his life in a new light. He sees that things will continue to be different, because he is changing as he grows up. Then, Bryon loved being part of a gang, and he loved fighting with Mark at his side. Now, he's viewing the past violent life as senseless, with each act of violence causing yet another one, on and on, and he enjoys the sense of being an individual rather than gaining his identity from the gang. Then, he never thought about why things happened, the "what ifs." Now, he does wonder; why, for instance, did Charlie have to die? Then, Bryon used girls without a second thought. Now, he is developing a very personal, honest relationship with Cathy. Then, Bryon cared only about himself and Mark and his mother; now, Bryon is beginning to care about people outside his own family, like M&M and Cathy.)*

7. How does Mark feel about the inevitability of change and wondering about why things happen? Does Mark ulti-

mately change his outlook in any way by the end of the novel?

*(Mark rejects Bryon's feelings of "that was then, this is now." Even though Mark can sense things changing, he resists the change. He wants to stay just as he is, doing whatever he wants and getting away with it, suffering no consequences. As Mark says to Bryon, "You can't keep trying to figure out why things happen, man. That's what old people do. That's when you can't get away with things any more. You gotta just take things as they come, and quit trying to reason them out." As long as you're a kid, Mark reasons, you can get away with anything. So he is completely shocked when his "brother" Bryon turns him in to the police. This betrayal, and the fact that he is actually going to have to spend time in jail for dealing drugs, shock Mark into a new frame of mind. He becomes cynical and hard-bitten, while predictably unrepentant for his illegal actions. When Bryon visits Mark for the last time in the reformatory, Bryon notes changes in Mark: "His strangely sinister innocence was gone, and in its place was a more sinister knowledge." Mark has come to hate Bryon and rejects their past close bond, telling Bryon, "That was then, and this is now.")*

8. What effect does the loss of innocence have on Mark, Bryon, and M&M?

*(Mark loses his innocence when Bryon turns him in to the police and he cannot talk his way out of the trouble he's in. No longer a kid able to avoid consequences for his actions and count on Bryon's unquestioning support, Mark becomes a cynical and hardened criminal type, even a potential murderer [a potential he nearly fulfills in Hinton's novel Tex]. Bryon loses his innocent childlike acceptance of whatever happens in life and begins wondering how unpleasant and even tragic events might have turned out differently, especially if he had acted differently. This makes Bryon very confused and unhappy about life, regretting that he no longer has all the answers, as he had had when he "was a kid." In his days of innocence, M&M had been a sweet, trusting boy intensely interested in everything. After encountering the hard reality of a bad acid trip, M&M is confused, vague, and scared of life.)*

### Questions 9-11 (Critical Level)

9. How does the author's image of Mark as a lion change from the beginning of the novel to the end?

*(At first, Mark has "a grin like a friendly lion" [p. 13], and Bryon's mother has taken in Mark like "a stray cat" [p. 13]. This image is repeated twice in Chapter 4. When Bryon tells Mark, "That was then, and this is now" to explain why things are different in their lives, Mark responds with "that lion-like grin" [p. 69]. Again, when Bryon says, "I guess you can get away with anything" after Mark escapes punishment for "borrowing" the school principal's car, Mark responds, "I guess so," smiling "like an innocent lion" [p. 75]. But then Hinton begins to suggest the menace of the lion image. When tension mounts one evening between Mark and Cathy, Bryon thinks, "I'd seen him suddenly turn on people, like a teased lion who's had enough" [p. 98]. Later, Bryon thinks about feeling grateful to have Mark as his best friend and protector: "Mark the lion....Who hadn't dreamed of having a pet lion to stand between you and*

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the world? Golden, dangerous Mark" [p. 113]. Bryon begins to realize the chilling effect jail is likely to have on Mark the morning after he has turned his brother in to the police, "Mark, [my mother's] stray lion, behind bars" [p. 151]. The image of the friendly, grinning lion disappears entirely in the closing pages of the novel, during Bryon's final visit with Mark at the reformatory: "He seemed to be pacing, like an impatient, dangerous, caged lion" [p. 157] and "[H]is eyes were the golden, hard, flat eyes of a jungle animal" [p. 158].)

10. What instances of foreshadowing do you find in the novel?

(Answers will vary somewhat. Instances include the following. Charlie warns Mark and Bryon that they will get in "real bad trouble one of these days" for hustling pool at his bar, which foreshadows the deadly incident with the Texans that results in Charlie's death. At the end of Chapter 2, Bryon records Mark's comment, "Man, if anybody ever hurt me like that I'd hate them for the rest of my life" and says how much remembering that comment tears him apart, which foreshadows the effect on Mark when Bryon betrays him to the police. Mark asks the hippie who gives him and Bryon a ride to the hospital all sorts of questions about the communal house the hippies live in, which foreshadows Mark's involvement with the hippies as their drug dealer and M&M's connection with the house. When Bryon feels a flash of jealousy at the dance when Cathy looks at Mark, Bryon wonders suddenly "how it would be to feel like that all your life—to hate the person you love best in the world." This foreshadows Mark's feelings toward Bryon after Bryon turns him in to the police. In describing Angela and her beautiful long hair, Bryon tells us, "She had the kind of face that would probably be strikingly beautiful even if she shaved her head." Later, Mark in effect does shave Angela's head by cutting off all that beautiful hair, and, as Bryon predicted, Angela is still beautiful. In Chapter 6, Cathy correctly predicts what actually does happen later in the novel when she tells Bryon that she's worried M&M will leave home because of their father's constant criticism and that if M&M does this, the effects will be disastrous: "He's so trusting. If someone handed him LSD and said, 'This is groovy,' he'd say O.K. and take it.")

11. What is your opinion of Bryon's decision to turn Mark in to the police? Do you find the decision believable? Do you think he made the right decision? What alternative action might he have taken?

(Answers will vary. After students have developed their individual opinions about this, you could have students discuss their opinions in small groups or as a whole class.)

### Questions 12-15 (Creative Level)

12. Suggest various alternative scenarios in response to the "what-ifs" that Bryon voices on the last page of the novel.
13. Write a letter from Bryon to Mark at the reformatory, and/or a letter from Mark to Bryon.
14. Create a series of diary entries for Cathy describing her view of events in the novel.
15. Write a newspaper article about one of the dramatic incidents in the novel, such as the dual shootings of Mark's

parents or the shooting death of a bar owner who was defending two teenagers.

## ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### Art

1. Draw a map showing the locations of various settings of the novel, including important locations like Charlie's bar, Bryon and Mark's house, the high school, the Ribbon, the hospital, and the hippie house.
2. Get or make a model of a Volkswagen bus and then decorate it as a 1970s-era hippie might have.
3. Create illustrations of the novel's characters, or come to class one day dressed as 1970s greasers and hippies and act out scenes from the novel.

### History and Social Studies

1. Research and report on the development of the Miranda warning and recent Supreme Court decisions relating to it.
2. Find out about how the hippie scene of the early 1970s changed over time, especially as drugs became prevalent.
3. Create a flow chart showing the various elements of the juvenile justice and corrections systems in your area. How would Mark have been treated in this system?
4. Find out which social services agencies in your town/city/county/state would become involved when Mark's parents kill each other, leaving Mark an orphan. Do you think these authorities would have approved of having Mark live with Mrs. Douglas? What alternative living arrangements might they develop for Mark?
5. Research and report on changes in the draft law from the 1960s to today.

### Language Arts

1. Rewrite some of the novel's dialogue into correct English grammar. Does this still sound like actual teenagers' speech?
2. Give some current slang terms for these 1970s slang terms from the novel: flower child, groovy/groove, old lady (for mom), chick, hippie, lingo, bread (for money), dig it, cooler (for jail).
3. Read some of Lord Byron's poetry and/or read about Lord Byron's life. Do you find any similarities between Lord Byron and Bryon Douglas?
4. Read *Lone Cowboy* or *Smoky the Cowhorse* by Will James. Why would these books have appealed to Mark and Bryon when they were younger?
5. Read two other S. E. Hinton novels, *The Outsiders* and *Tex*. Tell which characters from *That Was Then, This Is Now* appear in the other two novels, and what happens to them. Also, in a small group discussion or in writing, compare the various Hinton novels and identify common elements among them.
6. Read the Robert Frost poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" and relate it to *That Was Then, This Is Now*.
7. Bring some favorite limericks to class to share with classmates (but not dirty ones like the limerick Bryon recites that makes M&M turn red!). Then, after getting familiar with the form of the limerick, write a few of your own.
8. S. E. Hinton has been widely praised for the dialogue she writes for teens. Try your hand at writing dialogue for



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fictional teenagers. Use characters from this novel or another novel you're familiar with, or invent characters of your own.

### Mathematics

1. Bryon and Mark pay fifteen cents for a Coke at Charlie's bar. What does it cost to buy a medium soft drink at a restaurant today? What is the percentage increase from then to now? It is really an increase if adjusted for inflation?
2. The novel's characters visit the hospital frequently. Investigate current hospital charges where you live, plus the cost of various health insurance plans. If you had a full-time job and had to purchase health insurance, what choice would you make? Or, find out how you and/or your family would pay for your medical expenses if you were injured or became seriously ill. What would be covered by insurance? How much would you have to cover yourself?
3. Buy a bag of M&M candies and record how many candies of each color are in the bag. Create a pie chart showing percentages of each candy color. Compare your chart with charts your classmates create using their own bags of M&Ms. Are the color percentages pretty much the same for the various bags of candies?

### Music

Listen to music of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Which musicians and what music would Bryon, Mark, Cathy, M&M, Curly Shepard, and Angela have liked best?

### Science and Health

1. Demonstrate to the class proper first-aid techniques for treating the various types of injuries suffered by the novel's characters.
2. Research and write an illustrated report on the effects of alcohol, marijuana, and/or LSD on the human body.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. In a small group, develop a list of guidelines for getting hired for a part-time or full-time job. How should you dress? How should you act? etc.
2. Draw up a list of rules for playing pool, and explain to classmates how the game is played. If possible, demonstrate some pool shots or techniques.
3. Mike Chambers says he was "always making like Sir Galahad" for girls. Who was Sir Galahad? How would a person who acts like Sir Galahad treat females?
4. Predict the future life of Bryon and of Mark.
5. Compare Mark with Peter Pan.
6. Give advice to Mr. Carlson on a better way to communicate his concerns to M&M. Share approaches on this with classmates.
7. This novel was first published in 1971. Does it seem dated to you, or do the problems that the novel's teenage characters have to deal with still exist for today's teens?
8. Observe some younger teens or preteens out in public, as Bryon does on page 100 of the novel. Describe their behavior. Did you used to behave this way? Do you and your friends act differently now that you're older? In what ways? Why?
9. View the video of *That Was Then, This Is Now*, and then participate in a class discussion about the video as com-

pared with the novel. Identify strengths and weaknesses of each, react to the portrayals of the various characters, and talk about any plot variations.

10. Bryon asks Mark, "What'd I ever do to deserve you, Mark? Pull a thorn outa your paw?" Find out what legend this refers to, and retell the story in your own words.
11. Discuss this issue in class: Given his life up to the year that Bryon tells about, was Mark almost certain to get into deep trouble with the law, be nearly impossible to rehabilitate, and progress toward becoming a career criminal? What past or current actions by which people and what events, if any, might have changed Mark's life and attitude?

### ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Create a chart that shows the ways in which Bryon and Mark are different physically; were so similar then; and are becoming so different now.
2. Draw up a list of the novel's main characters. Next to each name, note the person's physical appearance, character traits, and relationship with Bryon, and then summarize the part this person plays in the novel.
3. Summarize the action of the novel as a series of violent incidents. Describe each incident in the order in which it occurs, noting who is involved and why the violence occurred.
4. Using specific incidents and details, trace either the way Bryon's perception of Mark changes or the ways in which Bryon himself changes in the course of the novel.

### OTHER WORKS BY S. E. HINTON

*Big David, Little David* (1994)  
*The Outsiders* (1967)  
*The Puppy Sister* (1995)  
*Rumble Fish* (1975)  
*Tex* (1979)  
*Taming the Star Runner* (1988)

### RELATED READING

Anonymous, *Go Ask Alice*  
Frank Bonham, *Cool Cat and Durango Street*  
Lois McMaster Bujold, *Mirror Dance*  
F. Buss, *Journey of the Sparrows*  
A.E. Cannon, *The Shadow Brothers*  
Alice Childress, *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*  
Judith Ortiz Cofer, *An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio*  
Robert Cormier, *Beyond the Chocolate War, The Chocolate War, and We All Fall Down*  
John Donovan, *I'll Get There, It Better Be Worth the Trip*  
Janet Campbell Hale, *The Owl's Song*  
Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*  
Robert Heinlein, *Farmer in the Sky, Have Spacesuit, Will Travel, Starman Jones, and Starship Troopers*  
Kristin Hunter, *The Soul Brothers and Sister Lou*  
Hadley Irwin, *Can't Hear You Listening*  
M.E. Kerr, *If I Love You, Am I Trapped Forever? and The Son of Someone Famous*  
E.L. Konigsburg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*  
Nat Hentoff, *I'm Really Dragged But Nothing Gets Me Down*  
Kevin Major, *Far From Shore*  
Sharon Mathis, *Teacup Full of Roses*  
Harry Mazer, *The War on Villa Street*

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Walter Dean Meyers, *Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff*;  
*Motown and Didi: A Love Story*; *Scorpions*; and *The Young Landlords*  
Jess Mowry, *Babylon Boyz*  
Theresa Nelson, *The Beggar's Ride*  
Scott O'Dell, *Child of Fire*  
Doris Orgel, *Crack in the Heart*  
Katherine Paterson, *Jacob Have I Loved*  
Chaim Potok, *The Chosen*  
Larry Segrist, *Spacer Dreams*  
Charles Sheffield and Jerry Pournelle, *Higher Education*  
Gary Soto, *Buried Onions*  
John Rowe Townsend, *Trouble in the Jungle*  
Paul Zindel, *Confessions of a Teenage Baboon*

## TEACHER'S NOTES

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- Saturday Review*, June 19, 1971, p. 27.
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**THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW**

**VOCABULARY TEST**

Match each underlined word with its meaning listed below. Write the letter of the meaning in the space next to the sentence number.

- |                       |              |                |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| a. winning over       | f. directly  | k. sick person | p. awkward      |
| b. in a gloomy way    | g. regretful | l. strolled    | q. little known |
| c. tall & thin        | h. bare      | m. only        | r. insulting    |
| d. recalling the past | i. plain     | n. stoop       | s. stuck-up     |
| e. twisted & ironic   | j. deep      | o. uneven      | t. complain     |

- \_\_\_ 1. Mark and me went down to the bar/pool hall about two or three blocks from where we lived with the sole intention of making some money.
- \_\_\_ 2. Charlie gave me a lopsided grin.
- \_\_\_ 3. "We don't have any credit," I said glumly.
- \_\_\_ 4. "You're right," Mark said. "But I really sounded profound there for a minute, huh?"
- \_\_\_ 5. "You ain't my best friend," M&M said with that disarming honesty, "but how much do you want?"
- \_\_\_ 6. "Hey, flower child, turn around." They were taunting him, but M&M just kept right on moving.
- \_\_\_ 7. I was five-ten at sixteen and still growing, but I went through my lanky period at fourteen and I had a good build now.
- \_\_\_ 8. "The last time I saw you, you had short hair and braces," I said, forgetting that a lady-killer should never remind a girl of her gawky age.
- \_\_\_ 9. "I got beat up," Mike said with a wry smile.
- \_\_\_ 10. "I always had this soft spot for chicks," Mike began. "I was always complimenting even the homely ones."
- \_\_\_ 11. "He thinks he's so good-looking. That whole family's conceited."
- \_\_\_ 12. "How anyone can flunk gym is beyond me," Mr. Carlson said. "It's not as if M&M was an invalid."
- \_\_\_ 13. Of course, I never heard Mom gripe about anything Mark did.
- \_\_\_ 14. "We've had some good times, huh, Bryon?" Mark broke the silence. I guess we both had been reminiscing.
- \_\_\_ 15. Mark remembered his banged-up head suddenly, because he yelped and lay back down with a rueful grin.
- \_\_\_ 16. "Would it do any good to tell you to be careful?" "Nope," said Mark bluntly.
- \_\_\_ 17. "See ya 'round, kids," the Texans said as they sauntered out.
- \_\_\_ 18. There was something about Tim Shepard—his scarred face, his fighter's slouch, the flickering of his black eyes—that let you know he meant business.
- \_\_\_ 19. I went and stood in front of Charlie's barren grave. No flowers, no nothing.
- \_\_\_ 20. I seemed to have become a mixture of things I had picked up from Charlie, Mark, Cathy, M&M, Mom, and even obscure people like Mike and the Shepards.

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Read each character description. In the list below, find the character who matches the description. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the description number. Use each name only once.

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| _____ 1. A smart girl who works at the hospital snack bar.               | a. Bryon         |
| _____ 2. A young man who's been badly beaten by a crowd of black youths. | b. Mark          |
| _____ 3. A tough-talking girl with beautiful long black hair.            | c. Cathy         |
| _____ 4. A hood who joins his brother in beating up Bryon.               | d. M&M           |
| _____ 5. A chronic thief who's on probation.                             | e. Charlie       |
| _____ 6. A person who complains about bad grades and long hair.          | f. Angela        |
| _____ 7. A tough but fair bar owner.                                     | g. Mrs. Douglas  |
| _____ 8. Formerly, a habitual liar and a playboy with the girls.         | h. Mr. Carlson   |
| _____ 9. A person who's out of work after an operation.                  | i. Mike Chambers |
| _____ 10. An innocent, trusting young flower child.                      | j. Tim Shepard   |

Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

Write a one- or two-word answer to each of the following questions.

1. Who has just come home after spending a year at boarding school when the novel opens?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What animal does Bryon often compare Mark to? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who is the author of this book? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who narrates, or tells, this story? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What skill does Bryon use to hustle people for money? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What is the novel's term for rich, upper-class kids, who are the opposite of greasers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What things does Mark often hot-wire and "borrow" for a while? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who is Baby Freak? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What kind of peace-and-love people live in the house where M&M is staying?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What important item does Mark take away from Angela? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What illegal act finally gets Mark sent to jail? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Where is Mark sent for causing so much trouble at the reformatory? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Which character gets married in the course of the novel? \_\_\_\_\_
14. At what kind of business does Bryon get a part-time job? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Whose parents shot each other to death? \_\_\_\_\_

## THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Bryon and Mark rescue M&M from being (run over, shot, given bad drugs, beaten up).
2. For his first date with Cathy, Bryon borrows Charlie's (shotgun, suit, money, car).
3. Charlie is killed by a (knifing, gunshot, gang beating, barroom brawl).
4. M&M earns money by (shoveling snow, hustling pool, baby-sitting, selling magazines).
5. Mark says you can get away with anything if you are (a kid, honest, stupid, a skillful thief.)
6. Bryon and Mark used to be members of a (chess club, gang, rock band, church fellowship group).
7. Bryon meets Cathy at the hospital (nurses' station, laundry, volunteer office, snack bar), where she works.
8. At first, Bryon thinks Mark is getting his steady supply of household money by (hustling pool, running numbers, playing poker, stealing).
9. After the breakup with Bryon, Angela wants to date (Mark, Ponyboy, Charlie, M&M).
10. Mike Chambers gets beaten up after he (assaults a girl, takes a girl home, mugs a black man, cheats a drug dealer).

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What happens to Mark that sends him to the hospital? What happens to Bryon that sends him to the hospital? (Be sure to tell how the two incidents are related.)
2. Describe Bryon's family, and explain how Mark has become part of it.
3. What is Mark's attitude about the law, right vs. wrong, and change?
4. Compare Bryon's relationship with Angela with his relationship with Cathy.

**THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW**

**COMPREHENSION TEST B**

**Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)**

Underline the choice that correctly completes each of these sentences.

1. Mrs. Douglas is out of work for a long time because she (was fired, is unskilled, had an operation, is lazy).
2. Mr. Carlson constantly criticizes M&M for his (long hair, string of arrests, high grades, anti-family attitude).
3. The hippies live in a (communal house, Volkswagen bus, lakeside cabin, apartment building).
4. Charlie's pool hall is also a (restaurant, off-track betting parlor, bar, video game arcade).
5. While Bryon has always been a chronic liar, Mark has always been a chronic (playboy, thief, drug user, rapist).
6. Mark gets even with Angela by (getting her pregnant, cutting off her hair, beating her up, breaking up with her).
7. Bryon discovers the drugs in/under Mark's (mattress, closet, car, jacket).
8. Mark gets to meetings with his probation officer via (bus, skateboard, a "borrowed" car, subway).
9. After the Shepard brothers beat him up, Bryon wants Mark to (leave them alone, take revenge, report them to the police, apologize).
10. At their last meeting, Bryon thinks of Mark as a(n) (friendly lion, scared kitten, innocent sheep, caged jungle animal).

**Part II: Matching (20 points)**

Read each quotation. In the list below, find the character who speaks the words. Write the letter of the character in the space next to the quotation number. Use each name only once.

- |          |          |            |                 |                  |
|----------|----------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| a. Bryon | c. Cathy | e. Charlie | g. Mrs. Douglas | i. Mike Chambers |
| b. Mark  | d. M&M   | f. Angela  | h. Mr. Carlson  | j. Dirty Dave    |

- \_\_\_ 1. "You guys are going to get in real bad trouble one of these days. Some guy's going to get hacked off when he finds out what you're doin', and you're gonna get a pool stick rammed down your throats."
- \_\_\_ 2. "I don't mind taking care of the kids. I like my family. When I get married I'm going to have at least nine or ten kids."
- \_\_\_ 3. "I drove her home. She lived way out on the north side where most of the blacks live."
- \_\_\_ 4. "You can't keep trying to figure out why things happen, man. That's what old people do."
- \_\_\_ 5. "I never cared about him anyway. I thought I was having—I mean, I thought I was, but I wasn't—and that's the only reason I married him, the louse."
- \_\_\_ 6. "How anyone can flunk gym is beyond me."
- \_\_\_ 7. "We're gonna give you a lesson on why not to hustle pool."
- \_\_\_ 8. "I don't want to keep this up, this getting-even jazz. It's stupid and I'm sick of it and it keeps going in circles."
- \_\_\_ 9. "You are my only child and my son and I couldn't hate you. I love you."
- \_\_\_ 10. "If he never comes home it'll be your fault—always picking on him about silly, goofy things."

## THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

### Part III: Fill-In (30 points)

Write one or two words in each blank to make each statement true.

1. The local cruising strip is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. M&M's brain and body are damaged when he takes the drug \_\_\_\_\_.
3. M&M says that \_\_\_\_\_ are chewing on him.
4. Bryon and Mark meet the badly beaten Mike Chambers in/at the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Bryon and Mark are \_\_\_\_\_, which is the opposite of being a Soc.
6. Mark's hair and eyes are a striking \_\_\_\_\_ color.
7. Mark is sentenced to five years in the state \_\_\_\_\_, which is the last place Bryon sees him.
8. The character whose last name is Curtis goes by the name \_\_\_\_\_.
9. After Charlie dies, the police give his \_\_\_\_\_ to Bryon and his mother.
10. Mike Chambers's gang picks on Connie because she is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. For their first date, Bryon and Cathy go to \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Cathy worries that M&M is smoking \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Bryon and Mark think of each other as \_\_\_\_\_ even though they really are not.
14. Cat is the hippies' nickname for \_\_\_\_\_.
15. M&M is described as a budding \_\_\_\_\_.

### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. What happens to M&M, and what impact does this have on Bryon?
2. What examples of dysfunctional families do you find in the novel?
3. What effect does Cathy have on Bryon and on Bryon's relationship with Mark?
4. Compare Bryon and Mark.

## ANSWER KEY

### VOCABULARY TEST

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. m | 6. r  | 11. s | 16. f |
| 2. o | 7. c  | 12. k | 17. l |
| 3. b | 8. p  | 13. t | 18. n |
| 4. j | 9. e  | 14. d | 19. h |
| 5. a | 10. i | 15. g | 20. q |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. h  |
| 2. i | 7. e  |
| 3. f | 8. a  |
| 4. j | 9. g  |
| 5. b | 10. d |

#### Part II: Short Answer (30 points)

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Cathy         | 9. hippies        |
| 2. lion          | 10. her hair      |
| 3. (S.E.) Hinton | 11. dealing drugs |
| 4. Bryon         | 12. state prison  |
| 5. shooting pool | 13. Angela        |
| 6. Socs          | 14. supermarket   |
| 7. cars          | 15. Mark          |
| 8. M&M           |                   |

#### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. beaten up    | 6. gang               |
| 2. car          | 7. snack bar          |
| 3. gunshot      | 8. playing poker      |
| 4. baby-sitting | 9. Ponyboy            |
| 5. a kid        | 10. takes a girl home |

#### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. had an operation | 6. cutting off her hair |
| 2. long hair        | 7. mattress             |
| 3. communal house   | 8. a "borrowed" car     |
| 4. bar              | 9. leave them alone     |
| 5. thief            | 10. caged jungle animal |

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. e | 6. h  |
| 2. d | 7. j  |
| 3. i | 8. a  |
| 4. b | 9. g  |
| 5. f | 10. c |

#### Part III: Fill-In (30 points)

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ribbon        | 9. car           |
| 2. LSD           | 10. black        |
| 3. spiders       | 11. a dance      |
| 4. hospital      | 12. marijuana    |
| 5. greasers      | 13. brothers     |
| 6. golden/yellow | 14. Mark         |
| 7. reformatory   | 15. flower child |
| 8. Ponyboy       |                  |

#### Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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