

Allusions and Terminology

Chapters One-Three

- Paul Newman (1) – actor, famous from the 50s; died in 2008
- greaser (1) – tough-guy, usually poor, common bad-guy of the 50s; characterized by long, greasy hair, blue jeans and T-shirts; often trouble-makers who steal, fight, and drop out of school
- digs (2), dig (13) – likes; loves; admires
- Socs (Socials, Socies, Soc) (2) – “higher class” kids; even though poor behavior was not often attributed to them, they often behaved badly; dressed well, drove fine cars, popular in school
- madras shirt (5) – plaid cotton front-button shirt made in India, popular during the 50s and 60s
- two-bits (10) – say; input; opinion
- Will Rogers (10) – famous humorist from the early 1900s
- gang rivalry (11) – competition or opposition between gangs
- hacked off (12) – mad; angry
- the cooler (12) - jail
- blade (13) – switchblade; pocket knife
- kid brother (13) – younger brother
- Nightly Double (14) – two movies featured together at the drive-in theater for the price of one admission
- boozed up (14) – drunk; intoxicated
- broad (14) – woman; girl; girlfriend
- Mustangs / Corvairs (15) – cars that were popular with the younger crowd during the 60s
- *Great Expectations* (15) – novel by Charles Dickens
- Pip (15) – main character from *Great Expectations*
- hood (15) – hoodlum; gang-banger; bad-guy; trouble-maker
- dig (17) – understand
- savvy (17) - understand
- goof around (19) – kill time; hang out; play around; mess around
- Kools (19) – brand of cigarettes
- drive-ins (19) – restaurants that serve food to customers while they remain in their vehicles
- fuzz (20) - police
- struck dumb (21) – shocked; left speechless; dumbstruck
- barrel race (22) – one of several types of competition in a rodeo, usually entered by females
- grade school (23) – elementary school
- DX (23) – a brand of gasoline
- a doll (23) – cute; hot; fine; good-looking
- saddle bronc (23) – rodeo rider
- swinging (27) – awesome; rockin’
- Chessy cat (27) – Cheshire cat, known for its huge toothy grin
- Arabian slave traders (28) – slave traders, before the 16th century, preferring female slaves
- ten camels (28) – camels were often used as barter in the Arab countries
- dames (29) – women; girls; females
- weed (30) – during the 1950s and 1960s, a cigarette
- concession stand (30) – snack bar; place to purchase refreshments at a game, movie, or other event
- reform school (35) – school for bad kids, usually in lieu of going to jail
- the Beatles (37) – world famous musical group from the 60s – 80s and beyond
- Elvis Presley (37) – rock ‘n’ roll singer, famous during the 50s and still popular today
- rank (37) – lousy; bad
- rep (39) – slang abbreviation for reputation
- pure quarter (40) – quarter horse, bred for racing

- barmaid (43) – cocktail waitress; female bartender
- yeller cur dog (48) – yellow hunting dog

Chapters Four-Six

- reeling pickled (54) – falling-down drunk
- English Leather (54) – a brand of men’s cologne
- fixed races (58) – illegal practice in which the results of races are predetermined by some underhanded means, often by payoff
- bootlegging (58) – making alcohol, usually for profit—illegal because taxes are not paid to the government for the rights
- dandy (58) - fine
- Hank Williams (58) – country music singer, most popular in the 40s and early 50s
- gross (58) – disgusting
- crooked (59) – drunk; intoxicated
- towheaded (59) – so blonde that the hair appears almost white
- lay over (60) – stay; spend the night
- reformatory (65) – reform school; home for juvenile delinquents
- pump (69) – water pump, often used where there is no running water inside the building
- pansy (72) – sissy
- T-Bird (80) – Ford Thunderbird automobile
- Sting Ray (85) – model of Corvette—a car manufactured by Chevrolet in the 1950s and 60s
- beefed (89) – angered
- Yankee dime (90) – colloquialism for darn, care, dang
- smarting (92); smarted (93) – hurting; hurt
- JD’s (95) – juvenile delinquents

Chapters Seven-Nine

- stoned (111) – drunk
- dough (111) – money
- *Reader’s Digest* (132) – magazine-like book of stories, jokes, and anecdotes issued monthly
- sucker (146) – someone who believes a lie or falls for a story

Chapters Ten-Twelve

- beat (160) – exhausted; worn-out
- Perry Mason (167) – a detective in the TV show of the same name

Idioms and Expressions**Chapter One**

- lone it (loned it) (1,2) – do (did) it alone
- happy-go-lucky (2) – carefree; easy going; easy to get along with
- use my head (4) – think carefully about the consequences of my actions
- scared of his own shadow (4) – unreasonably afraid of most everything
- like a bump on a log (4) – without reacting; showing no action
- for Pete’s Sake (6) – equivalent to for goodness sake, or for crying out loud; used to express annoyance or surprise
- bleedin’ like a stuck pig (7) – bleeding heavily, as though stabbed
- lift a hubcap (9) – steal a hubcap, a practice that was common among troublemakers in the fifties
- upside-down and backward (9) – thoroughly; from all angles; in every way
- to save his life (10) – as if it were a matter of life and death
- by your lonesome (13) – on your own; alone
- No, sirree, Bub (13) – absolutely not
- takes up (13) – sticks up; protects
- two-timin’ (14) – going out with two guys (girls) during the same time period behind the back of one or both partners
- marked lousy (15) – branded with the reputation of being someone bad or one to stay away from

Chapter Two

- got wise to us (19) – figured out what we were up to
- shut your trap (21) – stop talking!
- stuck-up (21) – conceited; egotistical; self-important
- sizing him up (24) – watching closely to try to determine what kind of person he is
- couldn’t say “boo” to a goose (24) – was very shy, timid
- not over his dead body (34) – he will do everything he can to prevent it
- as white as a sheet (34) – very pale; blood has rushed from her face
- have it made (34) – have everything they could ever ask for
- hitting it off (35) – getting along really well
- sweet-talking (35) – complimenting / flirting, “kissing up” in order to get what one wants
- beat the tar out of her (35) – beat her up badly
- half-crocked (35) – drunk

Chapter Three

- keep her guard up (38) – watch what she says and does
- like it or lump it (43) – accept the situation the way it is because you can’t do anything to change it
- chip off the block (48) – just like his father
- so quick it’d make your head spin (50) – so fast you wouldn’t realize it had happened

Chapter Four

- You ain't a'woofin' (53) – you aren't kidding; yes; absolutely
- lose my head (55) – lose my temper; become really angry
- Get ahold of yourself (57) – take control of yourself
- He didn't bat an eye (59) – He didn't think anything of it
- pack a punch (60) – hit hard

Chapter Five

- My head swam (70) – I was dizzy from fear or other strong emotion
- Fancy meetin' you here (70) – Imagine meeting (coming across) you here
- did a double take (72) – looked, looked away, quickly looked again
- like a fiend (78) – like someone who is addicted
- through the mill (80) – abused; badly treated
- you'd better believe it (82) – absolutely; for sure
- a ride for your money (82) – if you were paying for this, it would be well-worth the money you paid
- havin' it out (83) – fighting

Chapter Six

- rubbed him the wrong way (89) – did something that went against his nature; did something to upset him; likened to petting a cat in the wrong direction, which irritates it
- out of the corner of his eye (89) – through his peripheral vision, without looking straight at it

Chapter Seven

- in stitches (100) – laughing and giggling
- getting a kick out of all this (101) – having fun with it; enjoying himself
- going-on-seventeen (104) – near his seventeenth birthday
- lay off (107) – leave me alone; quit pestering me
- dead to the world (111) – extremely tired and sleepy
- by my lonesome (112) – alone
- lay down the law (116) – set forth the rules and expect them to be followed
- raise the roof (116) – become furiously angry

Chapter Eight

- cuss us out (123) – call us every kind of profanity (swear word) she could think of
- two of a kind (124) – very much alike in many different ways
- passed out cold (125) – fainted
- almost jumped out of my skin (126) – was totally frightened or startled
- get away with murder (126) – not receive any punishment for any trouble caused
- play chicken (127) – act like you are afraid
- What's up with the big-times? (127) – What are you guys doing? [friendly]
- booze-hound (129) – one who drinks alcohol to excess

Chapter Nine

- spruced up (131) – cleaned up and nicely dressed
- in a jam (135) – in some kind of trouble

Name _____ Period _____

- Get thee hence (136) – get over here (reference to the Bible)
- off my nut (137) – crazy
- get somewhere (138) – make a successful person of himself
- start the fireworks (139-140) – start the action/fight
- bopper (140) – fighter; one involved in a rumble
- sat tight (146) – sat firmly in his seat, holding on for security
- give me any static (147) – give me any trouble; try to stop me

Chapter Ten

- in a daze; in a stupor (150) – not thinking clearly; not behaving normally
- help a bluff (153) – make it easy to fool someone
- right off the bat (159) – immediately; right away

Chapter Eleven

- cold-blooded (166) – evil; cruel; brutal

Chapter Twelve

- goofing up (169) – making a big mistake; not paying attention to details
- like all git-out (172) – extremely; to the highest degree imaginable; considerably
- living in a vacuum (173) – shutting oneself off from life's realities
- bawl-baby (176) – crybaby; one who cries with very little provocation
- beefs (178) – gripes; complaints

The Outsiders Vocabulary

Directions: Below is a list of the vocabulary words from each chapter of the novel. Look up the definitions for each word, and keep your list for use with vocabulary activities.

Chapter 1

disgrace (page 3)
 madras(5)
 muttered (5)
 cowlick (6)
 reckless (7)
 bawl (8)
 quivering (9)
 unfathomable (10)
 rarities (11)
 savvy(17)

Chapter 2

roguishly (22)
 winced (23)
 incredulous (24)
 scowled (24)
 nonchalantly (25)
 scatterbrained (27)
 shanghai(ing) (28)
 heaters (29)

Chapter 3

gallantly (37)
 aloofness(38)
 ornery (39)
 elite (41)
 dumfounded (42)
 cunning (43)

Chapter 4

unceasingly (56)
 apprehensive (59)
 defiance (59)
 ruefully (60)
 reformatory (65)
 premonition (67)

Chapter 5

groggy (69)
 reluctantly (71)
 imploringly (72)
 sullenly (73)
 quavering (74)
 eluded (78)
 vital (80)
 indignant (80)
 hauled (81)

Chapter 6

surveyed (86)
 bewilderment (88)
 conviction (89)
 tangle (89)
 hesitation (90)
 defeated (92)
 plasma (95)
 hysterics (96)

Chapter 7

mimicking (100)
 radiates (101)
 bleak (103)
 drawled (106)
 cocksure (109)
 recurring (110)
 aghast (112)
 exploits (113)
 contemptuously (115)

Chapter 8

numbly (119)
 faltered (121)
 resemblance (123)
 divert (125)
 doggedly (127)

Chapter 9

mortal (134)
 grimacing (134)
 affectionately (135)
 superiority (135)
 menace (136)
 conformity (137)
 stifled (137)
 leery (139)
 contempt (142)
 contracted (149)
 agony (149)

Chapter 10

stupor (150)
 vaguely (153)
 concussion (156)
 delirious (157)
 clad (158)

Chapter 11

idolized (162)
 cocky (162)
 remark (164)
 liable (165)

Chapter 12

flinching (168)
 acquitted (168)
 composition (169)
 roundabout (170)
 corny (172)
 veered (175)
 vast (179)