

Name: _____

Date: _____

PRE-READING: ANTICIPATION GUIDE

The Outsiders

They walked around slowly, silently, smiling.

“Hey, grease,” one said in an over-friendly voice. “We’re gonna do you a favour, greaser. We’re gonna cut all that long greasy hair off.”

He had on a madras shirt. I can still see it. Blue madras. One of them laughed, then cussed me out in a low voice. I couldn’t think of anything to say. There just isn’t a whole lot you can say while waiting to get mugged, so I kept my mouth shut.

“Need a haircut, greaser?” The medium-sized blond pulled a knife out of his back pocket and flipped the blade open.

I finally thought of something to say. “No.” I was backing up, away from that knife. Of course I backed right into one of them. They had me down in a second. They had my arms and legs pinned down and one of them was sitting on my chest with his knees on my elbows, and if you don’t think that hurts, you’re crazy. I could smell English Leather shaving lotion and stale tobacco, and I wondered foolishly if I would suffocate before they did anything. I was scared so bad I was wishing I would. I fought to get loose, and almost did for a second; then they tightened up on me and slugged me a couple of times. So I lay still, swearing at them between gasps. A blade was held against my throat.

“How’d you like that haircut to begin just below the chin?”

It occurred to me then that they could kill me.

Directions: Read each statement listed below and put an X in the box that most closely indicates how you feel about the statement.

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Being street smart is more important than being book smart.				
You can recognize intelligent people by the way they look.				
Teenagers everywhere face the same problems.				
You can tell a lot about a person by the friends he/she has.				
In order to be a good friend, you must always be loyal to your friends.				
People pick friends who have similar interests and backgrounds.				
Regardless of situation, murder is never justified.				
Gangs serve no positive purpose.				