

Literature Discussions How-Not-To Guide

Cast:

Narrator	Student 3
Student 1	Student 4
Student 2	Student 5

Narrator: This group of 8th grade students is getting into their literature group to discuss their book, *The Outsiders*. Watch to see how it goes.

Student 5 is busy reading a book, and never makes eye contact with anyone in literature circle because of this.

Student 1: Ugh, I'm so tired! *(Student 1 leans over desk and puts head down.)*

Student 2: *(In a cheery, energetic voice, and sitting up straight in desk, looking around the circle of people)* Ok, I'll start us off here. I really liked the part in *The Outsiders* where Ponyboy said that the Greasers see it as their duty to—

Student 3: *(Cuts Student 2 off mid sentence in a hushed and hurried tone)* Oh! I forgot to tell you that my Mom finally said it was ok for me to go to the party on Saturday night! I can wait. Who else do you think is going to be there?

Narrator: Student 2 really wants to keep the discussion going. Being a group leader is really important to him/her.

Student 2: *(Looking around the circle shyly and continues to speak)* ...see it as their duty to stand up for each other in the face of enemies and authorities—

Student 4: *(Peaks around the classroom and then leans over to student sitting across from him/her, pulling out cell phone)* Hey, let me know when the teacher is on her way over here. There is this epic thing on YouTube that I've been dying to show. Have you seen the wakeboarding cat?

Kid who is sitting across from Student 4 leans over desk and looks at Student 4's phone, silently laughing at YouTube clip.

Student 2: *(Looks quickly around circle and then back down at her paper)* I know Dally is kind of crazy, like that one time when he—

Student 5: *(Quickly looks up from her book at Student 2 and starts yelling in a loud voice)* No! Stop Talking! I haven't read that far in the book yet! You're going to ruin the whole thing for me!

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Narrator: This group of 8th grade students is getting into their literature group to discuss their book, *The Outsiders*. Watch to see how it goes.

(All students are sitting up straight in their desks, free of distractions, with their literature packets in front of them.)

Student 1: I love the book so far. I almost couldn't stop reading it!

Student 2: I know! I really thought the part where Ponyboy said that the greasers see it as their duty to stand up for each other in the face of enemies and authorities. I know that Dally is kind of a crazy guy, but I thought that he was pretty honorable to everyone in the gang.

Student 3: *(Looking interested)* Did you include that as part of your "Contrast and Contradiction" questions?

Student 2: Yes. And this stuck out to me, especially when Johnny described Dally as a Southern Gentleman after reading *Gone with the Wind*. And then Dally took the blame for something Two-Bit did.

Student 4: I totally agree with you. I actually used that as my "Contrast and Contradiction" question this week, too. I think that it means that even the roughest people can be decent and have honor.

Student 5: I didn't even think of that, but I think that's a good idea. I had a good thought on the "Words of the Wiser." Johnny is so quiet and doesn't seem to be an active part of the story. But I was thinking that when things matter, Johnny always pulls through. Like he stood up to Dally at the drive-in when he was making dirty comments, and then when the church was on fire he didn't even hesitate to save those little kids.

Student 1: It makes me think of all the people in my life who do small things that have a huge influence on me.

Student 3: *(Looking out at the audience)* I love literature discussions. I have learned so much today!

