Write a five paragraph essay based the following prompt:

1) **Being an “outsider” can mean different things to different people. Discuss 3 characters in the story and discuss how each is an outsider. What makes them an outsider? How do they deal with it? Provide details from the story to support your response.**

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**Writing Your Introduction**

The opening paragraph of any essay is always the most important. If you don’t “hook” your reader right from the beginning, you may lose them (they may stop reading). So start strong! A proper introduction should be 4-5 sentences in length. Not only does an introduction need to “hook” your reader, but it also needs to tell them what the rest of the essay is going to be about. A proper introduction has three parts:

1) **HOOK** (Captures a reader like a hook catches a fish)
2) **BRIDGE** (Expands on the HOOK and transitions into the THESIS)
3) **THESIS** (Tells your reader exactly what the essay is about)

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**Writing Your Body Paragraphs**

The three body paragraphs should include your essay’s main points. Additionally, each body paragraph should use evidence from the book to support your points. A proper body paragraph has three parts:

1) **TOPIC SENTENCE** (introduces each paragraph’s talking point)
2) **SUPPORT SENTENCES** (details and evidence that help support your point. Be sure to elaborate on your supporting points.)
3) **CONCLUDING SENTENCE** (closes the paragraph and transitions into the next)

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**Writing Your Conclusion**

Your conclusion paragraph answers “why is this important?” It should accomplish the following three things:

1) **SUMMARIZE MAIN POINTS**
2) **CONNECT BACK TO THE INTRO IN A CREATIVE WAY**
3) **LEAVE THE READER WITH AN INTERESTING FINAL IMPRESSION**
An outsider is defined as “a person who does not belong to a particular group.” Some people choose to be an outsider while others are not given a choice. Whether an individual chooses to be an outsider or not, they are all required to adapt to the side effects that accompany being alone. There are a number of characters that could be considered outsiders in the novel, but none more so than Ponyboy Curtis, his brother Darry, and their friend, Dally Winston.

The narrator of the story, Ponyboy, is always at odds with the people around him. He often feels lost. He doesn't have parents to lean on in his most desperate moments after losing them to a car wreck. He does his best to counteract his loneliness by busying himself with as many distractions as possible. He reads incessantly, writes, and smokes. Two of these three habits are approved by his older brother, Darry, who has become Pony's legal guardian since his parents passed away.

Darry Curtis is the oldest greaser in the gang, but this is far from the only thing that sets him apart from the rest of the group. Darry is a rare combination of brains, brawn, and work ethic. Throughout high school, he showed all of the promise in the world, excelling on the football field and in the classroom. Unfortunately, when his parents died, Darry was forced to assume all of the responsibilities that come along with being a parent. As a result, he chose to sacrifice college and work as a roofer to help support the family. Although he grew up on the East side and amongst greasers, he always aspired for more and never felt quite at home there. In chapter 8, Ponyboys explains “...the only reason Darry couldn't be a Soc was us. The gang. Me and Soda. Darry was too smart to be a greaser.” While Darry was always yearning for a better life, Dallas Winston accepted who he was and embraced the greaser lifestyle.

Dallas Winston, or Dally, is a stone cold “hood.” In and out of prison since the age of ten, Dally has seen it all. Forced to grow up at a young age, he has learned that the best way to survive is to feel as little as possible, a lesson that he continually tries to teach the rest of the greasers. After being disappointed by so many people throughout his life, Dally decides that he is the only person that he can rely on. He has chosen to be an outsider. This decision ultimately leads to his death, however, when he decides that his only escape from his solitude is death. Unlike Ponyboy and Darry, who figure to escape the greaser lifestyle one day, Dally never gets out.

Being an “outsider” can mean different things to different people, but one thing is for certain: being on the outside is always accompanied by challenges. One may be forced to the outside like Darry, naturally find themselves there like Pony, or choose that life like Dallas Winston. Some people adapt better to a lonely life than others. In the end, the novel does a good job of showing the reader that even outsiders deserve a right to fair treatment, and some may even be heroes in disguise.