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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2013 Volume II: Interpreting Texts, Making Meaning: Starting Small

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## **Living Texts: Analyzing S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* by Thinking, Reading, Acting, and Thinking Again**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 13.02.10, published September 2013  
by Cheree Charmello

*Living Texts: Analyzing S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders by Thinking, Reading, Acting, and Thinking Again* is an adaptable, English Language Arts unit that provides opportunities for middle school students to *physically* demonstrate their interpretations of S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* through improvisation. The implicit purpose of the classroom activities is encouraging personal and social responsibility. Included in this unit is a sequence that can be used by students to efficiently and effectively interpret text. Both the interpretation strategies and the improvisational strategies are used within a performance sequence that uses each chapter of the novel as the foundation. Integrating these strategies will help students to interact with text through visual, auditory, and kinesthetic means, thus accessing each student's learning modality. Use of improvisation will help students to physically, linguistically, and artistically put themselves in the shoes of other people (characters), places (settings), and problems (plot) in order to help them *see, hear, and feel* what is going on in the words of the text. The unit's creation was guided by Common Core.

(Developed for Humanities [Cross Curricular Studies], grades 7-8; recommended for Language Arts, grades 6-9)

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