

Learning objective: Consider the meaning of a novel's title and what it might tell us about a story.

Starter:

Hand out resource sheet 'Considering book titles' (attached) and ask students to complete it on their own. Discuss students' ideas about what each title might tell us about the book.

Introduction:

Display the first part of the story (attached sheet 'The Opening Lines') and get students to make a list of questions:

What do you know?

What do you think you know?

What do you want to know?

Share ideas about the questions and how we might read the text in different ways.

Development:

Read the first chapter of *The Outsiders*, considering the questions we have posed. Have any of our questions been answered? Do we now have some more?

Plenary:

List five things we have learnt about Ponyboy and the story of *The Outsiders*.

Considering book titles

Look at the titles below. Decide what you think each book might be about based on the title.

1.	The Insiders	
2.	The Outsiders	
3.	The Borrowers	
4.	The Haves and Have nots	
5.	Greasers and Socials	
6.	Darry, Pony and Soda	
7.	Heroes and Villains	
8.	A Murder	
9.	An Heroic Re...ne	
10.	The Teenage Years	

The Opening Lines

When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman – he looks tough and I don't – but I guess my own looks aren't so bad. I have light-brown, almost-red hair and greenish-gray eyes. I wish they were more gray, because I hate most guys that have green eyes, but I have to be content with what I have. My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs, squared off in back and long at the front and sides, but I am a greaser and most of my neighbourhood rarely bothers to get a haircut. Besides, I look better with long hair.

I had a long walk home and no company, but I usually lone it anyway, for no reason except that I like to watch movies undisturbed so I can get into them and live them with the actors. When I see a movie with someone it's kind of uncomfortable, like having someone read your book over your shoulder. I'm different that way. I mean, my second-oldest-brother Soda, who is sixteen-going-on-seventeen, never cracks a book at all, and my oldest brother Darrel, who we call Darry, works too long and hard to be interested in a story or drawing a picture, so I'm not like them. And nobody in our gang digs movies and books the way I do. For a while there, I thought I was the only person in the world that did. So I loned it.