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That Was Then, This Is Now



Synopsis

Another classic by S.E. Hinton, author of *The Outsiders* Companion to *The Outsiders*, *That Was Then, This is Now* is S. E. Hinton's moving portrait of the bond between best friends Bryon and Mark and the tensions that develop between them as they begin to grow up and grow apart. This latest edition features bonus material, and, like *The Outsiders*, will also maintain the same pagination as the previous edition, making it ideal for continued classroom use. "A mature, disciplined novel which excites a response in the reader . . . Hard to forget."âThe New York Times

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0780 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 starsÂÂ See all reviewsÂ (369 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #6,815 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Stepfamilies #4 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #29 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

I have loved this book since I was a child and it remains one of my favorites today. The protagonist is a bright, articulate boy named Byron. He lives with his almost nonexistent mother and his adopted brother, Mark. An accomplished car thief ("nothing to hot wiring," according to him) and lover of fights, Mark is bad news. Byron describes him in an almost feral way; Mark had leonine coloring and features and his most outstanding feature is his amber colored eyes. Being with Mark is like a roller-coaster ride. Byron enjoys the excitement that living on the edge with Mark can bring. The characters are sharp and richly drawn as is the Oklahoma town of the mid-1960s where the story takes place. One gets a strong, compelling sense of the characters and the dividing line in their

immediate community. The "Greasers," so called because of their love for Elvis and tendency to use hair grease are looked down upon because they live on the "wrong side of the tracks," the east side of town. The Socs, (short for "Socialites") on the other hand are their affluent West Side counterparts. Byron falls hard for a socially mobile girl and takes her little brother, nicknamed M&M under his wing. The girl later ends up dating Byron's friend, the weirdly named Ponyboy who is in Byron's social circle. The kids in this work, as in all of S. E. Hinton's works are highly independent. Adult characters are peripheral at best. The story is really about the young people in the Oklahoma community and their issues, confrontations and interactions. S. E. Hinton's books during this time period tend to be juvenocracies, that is ruled by youth. Guns, drugs and violence are all part of the story.

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