

# Elements of Plot



The Outsiders- What's on  
the “inside” . . .



# EXPOSITION

The background and setting of the story

1960's- Some large city, possibly in Oklahoma.



# Initiating Action

- The event that starts the conflict or the attention getter of the story.
- Ponyboy getting jumped by the Socs.



# Rising Action

- The event(s) that add stress and pressure to a conflict.
- Usually there can be more than one
- Many examples: Meeting Cherry, Fire at the church, The rumble



# Complications

- Events or problems that act as obstacles or barriers that need to be conquered to resolve the conflict.
- Death of Bob or Johnny being in the hospital.



# Climax

- The turning point of the story or highest point of tension in the plot
- The deaths of Johnny and Dallas



# Falling Action

- Events that occur as a direct result of the climax
- Usually events that happen during the “dust settling” from the climax
- The trial, Soda running away



# Denouement or Resolution

- The “tying of the loose ends” or how the conflict is finally solved or resolved.
- The note from Johnny and Ponyboy’s decision to write his theme.





Learn these, love these, become  
one with these.