**About the author:  S.E. Hinton:**

***S.E. Hinton, was and still is, one of the most popular and best known writers of young adult fiction. Her books have been taught in some schools, and banned from others. Her novels changed the way people look at young adult literature.***

**Susan Eloise Hinton was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma (July 22, 1948). She has always enjoyed reading but wasn't satisfied with the literature that was being written for young adults, which influenced her to write novels like *The Outsiders*.**

**“I started reading about the same time everyone else did, and began to write a short time later.  The major influence on my writing has been my reading.  I read everything, including Comet cans and coffee labels.  Reading taught me sentence structure, paragraphing, how to build a chapter. Strangely enough, it never taught me spelling.”**

**According to Hinton, it was her inability to spell that contributed to a D grade in Creative Writing when she was a junior at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa.  It was during this same year that she finished a realistic book of fiction for teenagers.  This book, *The Outsiders*, created a revolution in the writing of young adult novels upon its publication in 1967.  For in this novel, Hinton portrayed a world realistic for many teenagers, filled with peer pressure, gang violence, social status and parental abuse.  It gave young people, used to stories of carefree innocents busy readying themselves for the big prom date, a dose of reality.**

**Susan Eloise Hinton became S.E. Hinton when The Outsiders was published.  The concern was that boys might not want to read a book about gang life if they knew it was written by a girl.  But she did know about gang life. Hinton based her writing on her experiences with “greasers” and “socs” (pronounced soshes- short for the socially elite) in Tulsa.  The characters she wrote about in The Outsiders are composites of the greasers and socs she knew, with some of herself mixed in.  Although never a member of either group, she was able to represent both sides realistically in her story.**

**Once published, *The Outsiders* gave her a lot of publicity and fame, and also a lot of pressure. S.E. Hinton was becoming known as "The Voice of the Youth" among other titles. This kind of pressure and publicity resulted in a three year long writer's block.**

**Her boyfriend (and now, her husband), who had gotten sick of her being depressed all the time, eventually broke this block. He made her write two pages a day if she wanted to go anywhere. This eventually led to *That Was Then, This Is Now*.**

***That Was Then, This Is Now* is known to be a much more well thought out book than *The Outsiders*. Because she read a lot of great literature and wanted to better herself, she made sure that she wrote each sentence exactly right. She continued to write her two pages a day until she finally felt it was finished in the summer of 1970, she got married a few months later.*That Was Then, This is Now* was published in 1971.**

**In 1975, S.E. Hinton published *Rumble Fish* as a novel (she had published a short story version in a 1968 edition of *Nimrod*, which was a literary supplement for the *University of Tulsa Alumni Magazine*).**

***Rumble Fish* was the shortest novel she had published. It received a great deal of contrasting opinions, with one reviewer claiming it to be her best book and the next claiming it to be her last.**

**The latter was apparently wrong. *Tex* was published in 1979, four years after *Rumble Fish*. It received great reviews and people raved about how the writing style had matured since previous publications. *Tex* would be the last book S.E. Hinton published for nine years. After another span of four years, S.E. Hinton's son, Nick was born.**

**Four years after *Tex* was released, quite a few major events took place in S.E. Hinton's life. In March of 1983, the movie *The The Outsiders* was released. The following August, Nicholas David was born. Two months later the movie *Rumble Fish* was released.**

**In 1985 the movie version of *That Was Then, This Is Now* was released. Three years later S.E. Hinton became the first person to receive the YASD/SLJ Author Achievement Award, which was given by the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association and School Library Journal.**

***Taming The Star Runner* was released in October of that year. It was the first book that S.E. Hinton had published that wasn't in first person. With a seven-year wait, S.E. Hinton released another book in 1995. This time she did something that no one expected.**

***Big David, Little David* was written for children around the kindergarten age. This deviation from Teen fiction seems to be a reflection of the current important things in S.E. Hinton's life: Family. The children's fiction trend continues with her latest release- *The Puppy Sister*, which is a fantasy book written for Elementary school level children.**

***S.E. Hinton currently lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma with her husband David. Her son Nick is away for college.***

**Author Facts:**

* **I am a very private person, and I'm very uncomfortable talking about my personal life.**
* **My hobby is horse-back riding; I've shown both humping and dressage.**
* **I read constantly, and occasionally take a class at the university, not for credit- it's more fun when you don't have to take the tests!**
* **A writer's life is not very exciting - usually you're alone in a room with your tools - paper, pen, imagination.  (I usually write long-hand first, then put it on a computer.)**
* **I walk the dog, ride my horse, wander the grocery store wondering what to cook for dinner. So much for my glamorous life.**
* **I have a great husband, a wonderful son; I won't invade their privacy by saying any more.  Unless I want to write about them.**

**-S.E. Hinton**