

A decorative border made of watercolor brushstrokes in shades of green, orange, and blue, framing the central text.

FINDING BELONGING
THROUGH THE
CULTIVATION OF A
CHOSEN FAMILY

By Emily Oditt Legaria

Rationale

Through utilizing the canonical text, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton, I aim to show students that if they do not have a positive relationship with their family or do not truly have a family, there are lifesaving and fulfilling qualities in finding community with others who become their chosen family although they are not related.



Into the Text

In order to get the students interested in the topic of chosen family and the ability to find identity through this group, I will play them the song “Till Forever Falls Apart” by Ashe and FINNEAS



TILL FOREVER FALLS APART

-Lyrics-

Out on our own
Dreaming in a world that we both know
Is out of our control
But if shit hits the fan we're not alone

'Cause you've got me and you know
That I've got you and I know

If the tide takes California
I'm so glad I got to hold ya
And if the sky falls from heaven above
Oh, I know I had the best time falling into love
We've been living on a fault line
And for a while, you were all mine
I've spent a lifetime giving you my heart
I swear that I'll be yours forever
'Til forever falls apart
'Til forever falls apart

-Lyrics-

So this is it, that's how it ends
I guess there's nothing more romantic than dying with your friends
And I'm not sorry for myself
I wouldn't wanna spend a minute loving anybody else

'Cause you've got me and you know
That I've got you and I know



Creating a Map of Johnny & Ponyboy's Chosen Family Moments



01

Split into groups of 4 and locate either quotes that demonstrate the instances where Ponyboy acted as Johnny's chosen family in a vital way.

02

Place these quotes on the provided sticky notes

03

Paste the sticky notes onto the poster paper in chronological order and write at the top "The map of Johnny & Ponyboy's Friendship"

04

Share out





Golden Moments Log

While reading, keep a log, whether physical or digital, of quotes or instances where the Greasers made each other's lives feel more golden in contrast to their bleak circumstances.





Writing Prompts

Writing prompts will allow the student to reflect on their own lives and ideas of a chosen family in light of the text.

01.

How have you been positively impacted by people who you would consider to be your chosen family? How is this similar or different to the way in which the Greasers functioned as chosen family for one another?

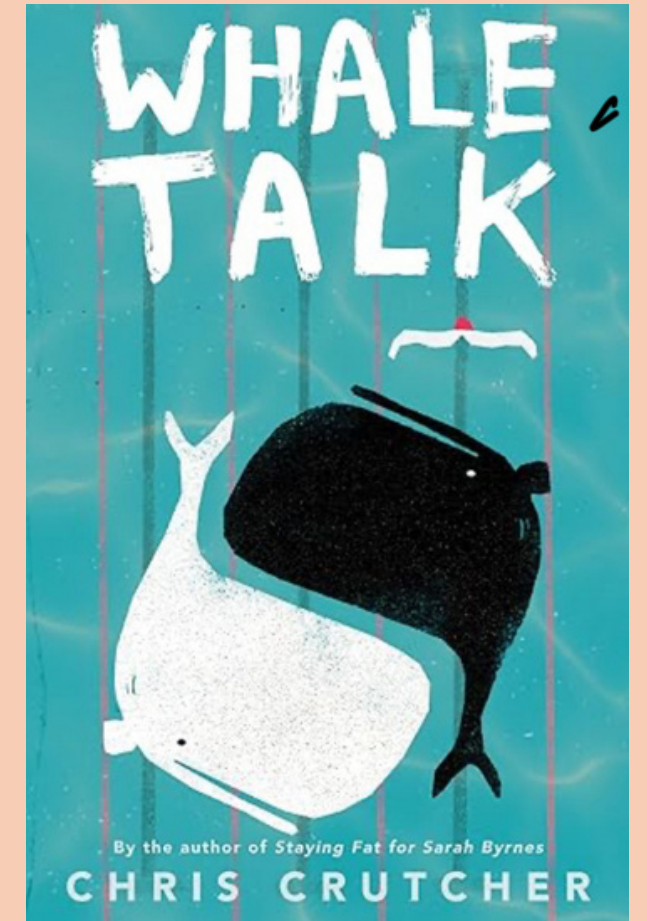
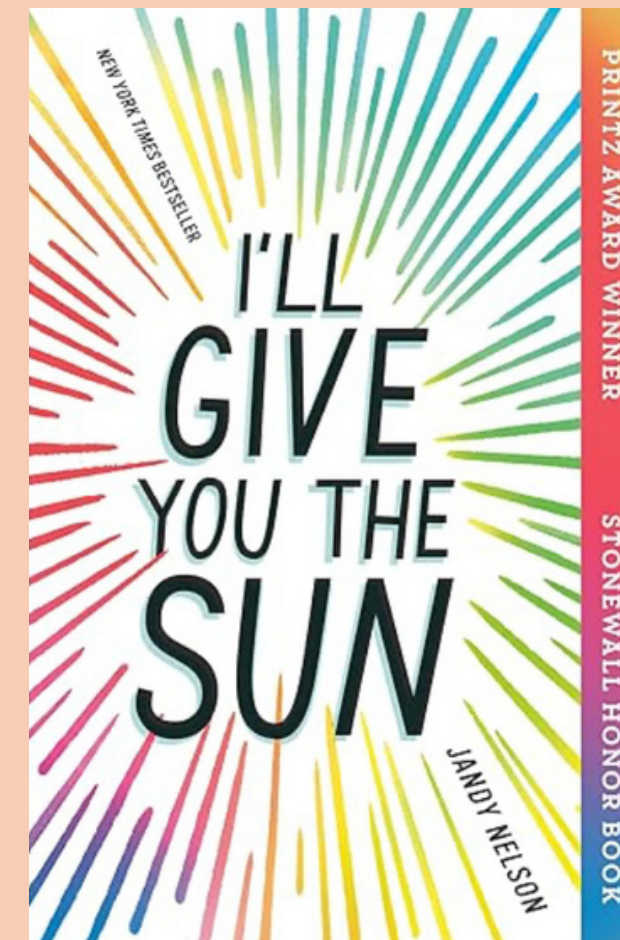
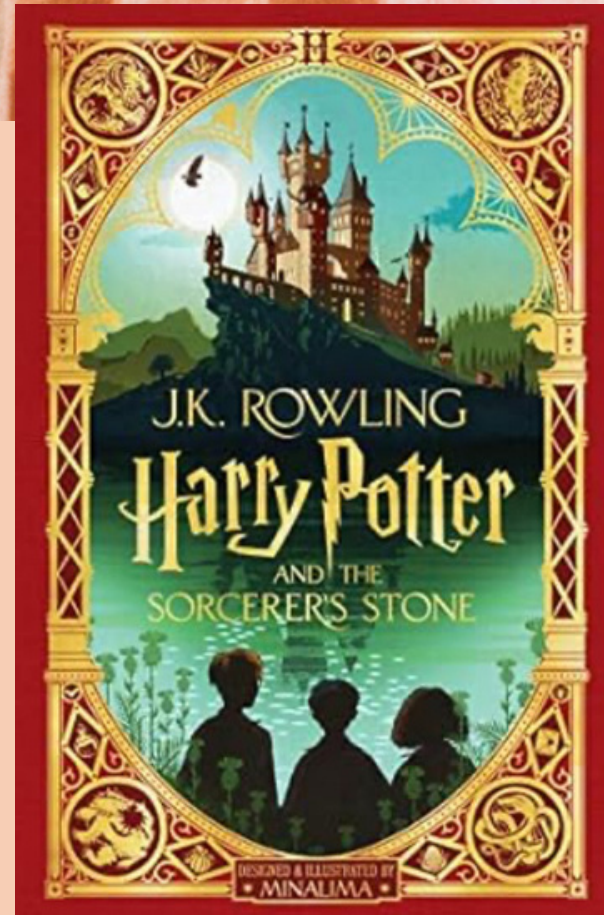
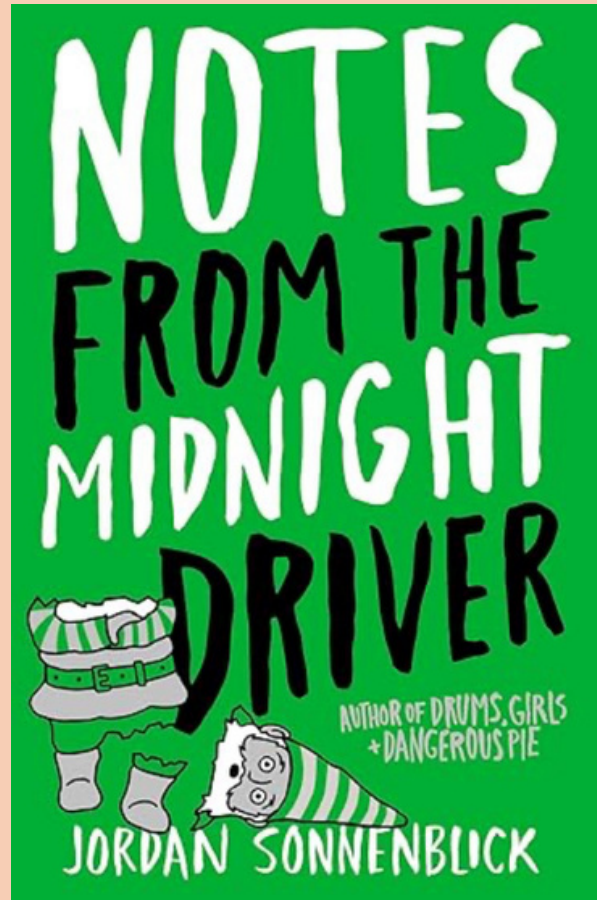
02.

Which of the qualities of the Greasers' cultivated chosen family would you seek in your own chosen family, whether you have one or not? Why?

03.

Select an instance in poetry or media, whether it be a song, film or television scene, or lines from a poem in which the idea of a chosen family resonates with you. In your mind, why do you consider this to be an ideal portrayal of chosen family? How does it relate or differ from the chosen family amongst the Greasers?

Beyond the Text



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THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!