S.E. Hinton: Biography

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. 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. That book, her first novel, was published in 1967 by Viking.

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 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.*

**About the Bio**  
I'm a very private person, and I'm very uncomfortable talking about my personal life, but a few facts:

My hobby is horse-back riding; I've shown both jumping 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, and 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

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**Article of the Week Questions:**

Please answer the following with complete sentences.

1. When do you notice the change in point of view? Show the textual evidence.

2. Why do you think *The Outsiders* has been banned in some schools, yet taught in others?

3. Compare and contrast S.E. Hinton’s writing style from when she first started writing to her later years in writing.

   Compare (How are the styles alike?):

   Contrast (How are the styles different?):

4. According to the text, what did S.E. Hinton do that was unexpected?