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The Outsiders Essay

Society, a group of people of different races and social statuses in a certain area. This may cause several unnecessary problems, like in the book The Outsiders by S.H. Hinton, the Socs and the greasers are constantly quarrelling with each other, just because the Socs are far richer than the other kids. “I’m not sure how you spell it, but it’s the abbreviation for the Socials, the jet set, the West-side rich kids.” (2, Hinton). The Socs are well aware of this fact, and they are using it against the greasers. The Socs could easily do something “illegal” and blame it on the Greasers, because the cops, no, the whole society saw Greasers as vermin, pests, menace of the society. Besides, greasers, even though they’re poor, unhygienic, and sometimes “wild”, they don’t really cause much trouble for the people around them.

“O victim of environment, underprivileged, rotten, no-count hood!” (136, Hinton). They rarely, commit such actions like murdering people, unlike the Socs, which, in my opinion, are causing more “trouble” for the society. For example, which do you prefer, some kids lifting your shop, of course, it’ll cause some casualties, but at least it’s better than some drunk kids driving around town, drunk, who knows what kind of trouble can they cause? Besides, I don’t think the Greasers will shoplift if they’re not that poor. While the Socs, despite their wealth they choose to jump greasers. Isn’t that, in any way, disgraceful?

Alcohol, some people drink to relieve their stress, some just drink because all people around him/her are drinking. But the Socs, the ones who were supposed to be the hope of the future, the “light” of society, drinks for fun, For kicks. They don’t care about others, they don’t care about their surroundings, and how they disturb society. The greasers, on the other hand, don’t drink that much, well, they drink, but they don’t usually do anything dangerous when they’re drunk, the worse they can do is punch someone, in a fistfight. A fair and square fistfight. If the Socs drink alcohol, the greasers smoke weed, to calm their nerves, or just for fun. Of course, its more or less the same, but greasers smoke weed in alleys, with their gang, without disturbing society. Of course, they look scarier than the socs, but if society doesn’t disturb them, I don’t think they will cause any “real” problem to the society.

I am actually amazed, by how social status, and money can affect society’s way of looking at things. For example, in their schools, even though Socs are the ones who caused riots in the canteen, they can easily blame it to the greasers, since every time there’s something wrong with society, the society’s mind automatically relate it to the greaser, simply because they are poor. Socs, even though often seen drunk and jump greasers, the society often “close their eyes” and pretend that nothing’s happening. They are treated like idols of society, hope of the future. Meanwhile, the greasers, even though they’re not really bad, society sees, and treats them like annoying vermin, completely useless to the society, something to exterminate. The society is not seeing greasers as a group, a “negative” group. Even though, not all of them are like that. For example Johnny and Ponyboy. Even though Ponyboy acts all tough on the outside, in the inside he’s a guy who adores sunset, a guy who digs poetry, a guy with good grades and athletic abilities, a guy who’s just like any other Socs kid, a guy with potential, hope for the future. Johnny, a poor kid, born to a cruel world where every odd is against him, yet his heart is so pure; he sacrificed his body, his life, to save innocent children. Guys like these are treated as hoods because of their surroundings, their gang. Socs are not all bad, too. For example Bob. Bob was a good high school student, who’s only looking for someone to “limit” him, to show him what’s wrong and what’s right, so that he can be a better human being. But, unfortunate for him, his parents are not the “right” kind of parents. They let Bob do anything he wanted, and, with friends like his, it’s not so hard to be corrupted, to be broken, to be a useless human being. Which results in death.

Even though greasers may seem wilder and will more likely cause problems for the society, the dark, true side of the socs is even more disgraceful for the society. They drink, they cause riots, they endanger the society. They’re safe, they’re protected, they’re seen as holies. Greasers, on the other hand, they smoke weed in the alleys, where there’s nobody but them, they shoplift because they’re poor, they only fight among themselves, and defend themselves when faced with the Socs. Yet, the Socs are viewed as heroes, as the light, the hope of the future, just because they are the richest kids around. This is not the greasers fault, they cannot do anything to the fact that they’re poor, this is the fault of our society, who judges people depending on the groups they’re in, not as individuals. “Greasers didn’t have anything to do with it. It’s the individuals” (115, Hinton).This is not a fictional situation created by S.H. Hinton; this situation is actually applicable to our real life. For example, a group of poor people is seen as something useless, something disturbing to other people. But, in fact, in their harsh condition, their heart, their will is trained. They become hard workers, with hearts that is able to face any obstacles, because they have experienced the harshness life. These people are actually potential workers, with proper training and education; they can actually be useful for the rich people. But, because of their social status, they’re discriminated and are ignored from the society.

Bibliography

Hinton, S. E. *The Outsiders,*. New York: Viking, 1967. Print.