

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON IS A COMPELLING YOUNG ADULT NOVEL THAT HAS CAPTIVATED READERS SINCE ITS PUBLICATION, OFFERING A PROFOUND EXPLORATION OF FRIENDSHIP, CHANGE, AND THE CHALLENGES OF ADOLESCENCE. WRITTEN BY S.E. HINTON, A PIONEERING AUTHOR IN THE GENRE, THE BOOK SERVES AS A SEQUEL AND COMPANION TO HER GROUNDBREAKING WORK, "THE OUTSIDERS." THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE THEMES, CHARACTERS, AND CULTURAL IMPACT OF "THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW," HIGHLIGHTING WHY IT REMAINS A SIGNIFICANT WORK IN YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE. ADDITIONALLY, THE DISCUSSION INCLUDES AN OVERVIEW OF S.E. HINTON'S WRITING STYLE, THE NOVEL'S RECEPTION, AND ITS ADAPTATION INTO FILM. READERS INTERESTED IN COMING-OF-AGE STORIES AND LITERARY ANALYSIS WILL FIND VALUABLE INSIGHTS THROUGHOUT THIS COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON.

- OVERVIEW OF THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW
- MAIN CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS
- THEMES AND LITERARY SIGNIFICANCE
- S.E. HINTON'S WRITING STYLE AND INFLUENCE
- RECEPTION AND IMPACT ON YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE
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OVERVIEW OF THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

"THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW" IS A NOVEL PUBLISHED IN 1971 BY S.E. HINTON, WHO WAS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN FOR HER DEBUT NOVEL, "THE OUTSIDERS." SET IN THE SAME UNIVERSE AS "THE OUTSIDERS," THE STORY FOLLOWS THE LIVES OF TWO CLOSE FRIENDS, BRYON DOUGLAS AND MARK JENNINGS, AS THEY NAVIGATE THE COMPLEXITIES OF GROWING UP IN A TURBULENT ENVIRONMENT. THE NARRATIVE EXPLORES HOW THEIR FRIENDSHIP EVOLVES IN THE FACE OF PERSONAL GROWTH, SOCIAL PRESSURES, AND MORAL DILEMMAS.

THE NOVEL IS KNOWN FOR ITS REALISTIC PORTRAYAL OF TEENAGE LIFE IN THE EARLY 1970s, TACKLING ISSUES SUCH AS DRUG USE, VIOLENCE, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY. HINTON'S WORK CONTINUES TO RESONATE DUE TO ITS HONEST DEPICTION OF ADOLESCENT CHALLENGES AND ITS NUANCED CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. "THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW" OFFERS A RAW AND AUTHENTIC PERSPECTIVE ON THE TRANSITION FROM YOUTH TO ADULthood, MAKING IT AN ESSENTIAL READ IN THE YOUNG ADULT GENRE.

MAIN CHARACTERS AND RELATIONSHIPS

THE STRENGTH OF THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON LIES IN ITS WELL-DEVELOPED CHARACTERS AND THE DYNAMICS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. THE NOVEL'S PROTAGONISTS, BRYON DOUGLAS AND MARK JENNINGS, SHARE A DEEP BOND THAT IS TESTED THROUGHOUT THE STORY AS THEY FACE CONFLICTING VALUES AND LIFE CHOICES.

BRYON DOUGLAS

BRYON SERVES AS THE NARRATOR AND CENTRAL FIGURE OF THE NOVEL. HE BEGINS AS A CAREFREE TEENAGER WHO ENJOYS A CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH MARK. HOWEVER, AS THE PLOT PROGRESSES, BRYON EXPERIENCES SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL GROWTH, GRAPPLING WITH ISSUES OF LOYALTY, MORALITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY. HIS EVOLVING PERSPECTIVE CHALLENGES THE STATUS QUO AND ULTIMATELY DRIVES THE STORY'S EMOTIONAL CORE.

MARK JENNINGS

MARK IS BRYON'S BEST FRIEND AND PARTNER IN MANY ADVENTURES. UNLIKE BRYON, MARK MAINTAINS HIS YOUTHFUL REBELLIOUSNESS AND RESISTANCE TO CHANGE FOR MUCH OF THE NOVEL. HIS CHARACTER REPRESENTS THE STRUGGLE TO HOLD ONTO CHILDHOOD INNOCENCE AMIDST THE HARSH REALITIES OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT. THE DIVERGENCE IN THE PATHS OF BRYON AND MARK HIGHLIGHTS THE THEME OF CHANGE AND THE INEVITABLE DISTANCING THAT OCCURS IN FRIENDSHIPS OVER TIME.

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

SEVERAL OTHER CHARACTERS ENRICH THE NARRATIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE EXPLORATION OF SOCIAL ISSUES AND INTERPERSONAL CONFLICTS:

- MUFFY: BRYON'S LOVE INTEREST, SYMBOLIZING INNOCENCE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A STABLE FUTURE.
- CHARLIE: ANOTHER FRIEND WHO FACES HIS OWN STRUGGLES WITH DRUG ADDICTION AND PEER PRESSURE.
- ANGELA: A CHARACTER REPRESENTING THE DARKER CONSEQUENCES OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE TEENAGERS INHABIT.

THEMES AND LITERARY SIGNIFICANCE

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON IS NOTABLE FOR ITS EXPLORATION OF COMPLEX THEMES RELEVANT TO YOUNG ADULTS AND SOCIETY AT LARGE. THE NOVEL'S LITERARY SIGNIFICANCE IS ANCHORED IN ITS ABILITY TO ADDRESS DIFFICULT TOPICS WITH SENSITIVITY AND REALISM.

FRIENDSHIP AND CHANGE

THE EVOLVING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BRYON AND MARK SERVES AS A MICROCOSM FOR THE BROADER THEME OF CHANGE. THE NOVEL EXAMINES HOW PEOPLE GROW APART DUE TO DIFFERING VALUES, EXPERIENCES, AND MATURITY LEVELS. IT POIGNANTLY ILLUSTRATES THE PAIN AND INEVITABILITY OF LOSING CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS AS INDIVIDUALS FORGE THEIR OWN IDENTITIES.

MORALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

THE STORY CHALLENGES READERS TO CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS. BRYON'S JOURNEY REFLECTS THE TENSION BETWEEN YOUTHFUL IMPULSIVENESS AND THE WEIGHT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, ENCOURAGING REFLECTION ON THE CHOICES THAT SHAPE ONE'S LIFE.

SOCIAL ISSUES

S.E. HINTON DOES NOT SHY AWAY FROM DEPICTING HARSH REALITIES SUCH AS DRUG ABUSE, VIOLENCE, AND POVERTY. THESE ELEMENTS GROUND THE NARRATIVE IN AUTHENTICITY AND HIGHLIGHT THE SOCIETAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHARACTERS' LIVES. THE PORTRAYAL OF THESE ISSUES CONTRIBUTES TO THE NOVEL'S ROLE AS A CATALYST FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES FACED BY TEENAGERS IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

S.E. HINTON'S WRITING STYLE AND INFLUENCE

S.E. HINTON'S DISTINCTIVE WRITING STYLE IN THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON IS CHARACTERIZED BY STRAIGHTFORWARD, ACCESSIBLE PROSE THAT EFFECTIVELY CAPTURES THE VOICES AND EMOTIONS OF TEENAGERS. HER USE OF FIRST-PERSON NARRATION CREATES INTIMACY AND IMMEDIACY, ALLOWING READERS TO DEEPLY CONNECT WITH BRYON'S

PERSPECTIVE.

HINTON'S INFLUENCE ON YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE IS PROFOUND, AS SHE WAS AMONG THE FIRST AUTHORS TO WRITE REALISTICALLY ABOUT ADOLESCENT STRUGGLES WITHOUT CONDESCENSION OR SENTIMENTALITY. HER WORKS PAVED THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF WRITERS TO EXPLORE COMPLEX THEMES RELEVANT TO YOUTH CULTURE.

- USE OF AUTHENTIC VERNACULAR AND SLANG REFLECTIVE OF THE 1970S YOUTH CULTURE.
- FOCUS ON CHARACTER-DRIVEN STORYTELLING RATHER THAN PLOT-HEAVY NARRATIVES.
- INCLUSION OF MORAL AMBIGUITY AND NUANCED CHARACTER MOTIVATIONS.
- PORTRAYAL OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY TEENAGERS.

RECEPTION AND IMPACT ON YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

SINCE ITS RELEASE, THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON HAS RECEIVED CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR ITS HONEST AND IMPACTFUL STORYTELLING. THE NOVEL SOLIDIFIED S.E. HINTON'S REPUTATION AS A LEADING VOICE IN YOUNG ADULT FICTION AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE GENRE'S EVOLUTION.

EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS HAVE FREQUENTLY INCLUDED THE BOOK IN SCHOOL CURRICULA AND READING LISTS DUE TO ITS RELATABLE THEMES AND ENGAGING NARRATIVE. ITS CANDID TREATMENT OF DIFFICULT SUBJECTS HAS SPARKED MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS AMONG READERS AND EDUCATORS ALIKE.

THE BOOK'S ENDURING POPULARITY IS REFLECTED IN ITS CONTINUED READERSHIP AND THE CRITICAL DISCUSSIONS IT INSPIRES ABOUT ADOLESCENCE, FRIENDSHIP, AND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES.

FILM ADAPTATION AND CULTURAL LEGACY

THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW SE HINTON WAS ADAPTED INTO A FEATURE FILM IN 1985, DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER CAIN. THE ADAPTATION BROUGHT THE STORY TO A WIDER AUDIENCE AND FURTHER CEMENTED ITS STATUS AS A CULTURAL TOUCHSTONE IN YOUNG ADULT MEDIA.

WHILE THE FILM MADE CERTAIN CHANGES TO THE PLOT AND CHARACTERS, IT RETAINED THE CORE THEMES OF FRIENDSHIP, CHANGE, AND THE STRUGGLES OF GROWING UP. THE MOVIE HELPED INTRODUCE NEW GENERATIONS TO S.E. HINTON'S WORK AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE BROADER CULTURAL LEGACY OF THE NOVEL.

THE NOVEL'S INFLUENCE EXTENDS BEYOND LITERATURE AND FILM, INSPIRING VARIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON COMING-OF-AGE EXPERIENCES AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF YOUTH. ITS IMPACT IS EVIDENT IN LATER WORKS THAT EXPLORE SIMILAR THEMES OF IDENTITY, MORALITY, AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES FACED BY TEENAGERS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME OF 'THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW' BY S.E. HINTON?

THE MAIN THEME OF 'THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW' IS THE TRANSITION FROM ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD, FOCUSING ON CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS, LOYALTY, AND PERSONAL IDENTITY.

WHO ARE THE TWO CENTRAL CHARACTERS IN 'THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW' AND WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP?

THE TWO CENTRAL CHARACTERS ARE BRYON DOUGLAS AND MARK JENNINGS, WHO ARE COUSINS AND BEST FRIENDS NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES OF GROWING UP TOGETHER.

How does 'That Was Then, This Is Now' differ from S.E. Hinton's earlier works?

Unlike Hinton's earlier works like 'The Outsiders,' this novel delves deeper into the complexities of moral ambiguity and the evolving nature of friendships during adolescence.

What role does the setting play in 'That Was Then, This Is Now'?

The setting, a working-class neighborhood in the 1960s, provides a realistic backdrop that highlights social issues and influences the characters' experiences and decisions.

How does Bryon's character change throughout the novel?

Bryon matures significantly, becoming more aware of the consequences of his actions and the complexities of right and wrong, leading to a shift in his relationship with Mark.

What is the significance of the title 'That Was Then, This Is Now'?

The title reflects the theme of change and growth, emphasizing how past experiences shape the present and how characters must adapt to new realities.

Has 'That Was Then, This Is Now' been adapted into other media?

Yes, the novel was adapted into a film in 1985, starring Emilio Estevez and Craig Sheffer, which helped popularize the story beyond its book audience.

Additional Resources

1. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

This classic novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with class conflict between the greasers and the socs. Like **That Was Then, This Is Now**, it explores themes of friendship, loyalty, and growing up in a tough world. The book captures the emotional turmoil of adolescence and the desire to find one's place in society.

2. *Rumble Fish* by S.E. Hinton

Another gripping tale from Hinton, this novel centers on Rusty-James, a troubled teenager trying to escape his violent past. The story delves into issues of identity, family, and the impact of choices on one's future. Its poetic prose and vivid characters create a haunting portrayal of youth and change.

3. *Tex* by S.E. Hinton

This book follows Tex, a teenager dealing with the challenges of family responsibility and personal growth. Set in a small town, it highlights the struggles of adolescence, brotherhood, and finding hope amidst hardship. The realistic characters and heartfelt narrative resonate with readers who enjoyed **That Was Then, This Is Now**.

4. *Stay Gold* by Tobin Quillin

Inspired by the themes of **The Outsiders** and **That Was Then, This Is Now**, this novel explores the bonds of friendship and the fight to preserve innocence in a harsh world. It's a coming-of-age story that tackles loyalty, change, and the struggle to stay true to oneself. The emotional depth and relatable characters make it a compelling read.

5. *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier

This intense novel depicts the battle between conformity and individuality in a Catholic high school. Like Hinton's work, it examines the pressures teens face from peers and authority figures. The protagonist's courage in standing up to corruption and bullying echoes the themes of identity and resistance.

6. *My Brother Sam Is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

Set during the American Revolution, this historical novel tells the story of a young boy coping with war's impact on his family. Similar to **That Was Then, This Is Now**, it explores themes of loyalty, loss, and the painful process of growing up amid conflict. Its emotional narrative provides insight into the complexities of family and change.

7. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

This novel is about the friendship between two boys, one with a learning disability and the other physically small but intelligent. It emphasizes themes of companionship, overcoming obstacles, and self-acceptance. Like Hinton's novels, it highlights the importance of empathy and understanding in adolescence.

8. *Dead Poets Society* by N.H. Kleinbaum

Based on the film, this book explores the impact of an unorthodox English teacher on his students at a conservative boarding school. It deals with themes of individuality, rebellion, and the pursuit of passion, much like **That Was Then, This Is Now**. The story encourages readers to seize the day and challenge societal expectations.

9. *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers

This novel presents the story of a teenager on trial for murder, told through his diary and court transcripts. It examines themes of identity, justice, and the struggle to be understood. The intense and thought-provoking narrative shares the raw emotional exploration found in Hinton's work.

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