“The Teenage Story” Starter

Themes from The Outsiders & *Rebel Without a Cause*

Language Arts 7—Kaye

To prepare for the group discussion & project work tomorrow, generate a list of at least ten themes you’ve noticed in *Rebel Without a Cause*. You do not necessarily need to tie them to The Outsiders at this point; ultimately our Venn diagram will accomplish that.

Remember, we’re looking to explore **universal truths**. Think of this as an examination of behavioral trends that reflect the fabric of teen culture and society. Together this week, we’ll identify and discuss elements that covey teen subjects and issues that resonate across generations and eras—the 1950s and 60s and even today.

A FEW EXAMPLES:

Often times, parents—even those wanting the best—shower their children with material objects, but not love. The basic needs of love, attention, and acceptance can’t be bought; without them, children suffer a form of neglect.

Many teens run away from their problems after experiencing disappointment, failure, or a trauma. They often lack the guidance and support network to deal with them.

Notice how I don’t refer to the titles of the works of fiction or mention any specific characters?

That will come later, when we develop supporting details. For now, keep these theme statements concise AND universal.

Each theme statement should be 1-2 high-quality sentences in length. All 10 are due tomorrow. Practice using the “Rules of Thumb” to build these.