

The Outsiders- Dallas Winston

He suddenly raised his gun at the police, but he didn't shoot. The cops did. The blaze of gunfire was brief, and soon he fell still and lifeless under the light of the streetlamp. There was a grin on his face. Who was he? Just another hood?

Dallas Winston (Dally) is one of the main characters in S.E. Hinton's dramatic coming-of-age novel *The Outsiders*. At only 17 years old, he was shot dead one night on the streets by the police after robbing a grocery store. He belonged to a small, close gang of abandoned and impoverished young boys living on the poor east side of town, called the "Greasers", who were in a fierce, turned bloody, conflict with the west side "rich kids", the Socials (Socs). Their conflict is largely a subplot that sets the stage for the main focus of the story, which is on the development of the major characters and their influences on the story. The focus of this paper is on one such character, Dally. Dally is initially portrayed as just a thug, but becomes much more than that as his story is further revealed up until his death. Likewise, in order to fully understand his character and the impact he has on the story, you must look at both his criminal demeanor ✓ and at his history, as well as his unsung heroism and relationship with another character, Johnny. ✓ We have to start at the surface with his delinquent personality.

Dally acts like a typical thug, the ones that rob convenience stores and are involved in shootings. Ponyboy, a young Greaser, had described him in the beginning of the story saying,