GENERAL

when was the novel the outsiders published

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Introduction

When was the novel *The Outsiders*published? This question is the gateway to a fascinating journey through the world of American literature, teenage angst, and the cultural zeitgeist of the 1960s. While the answer is succinct—1967—the story behind the publication, the author's youthful perspective, and the novel's enduring influence are worth exploring in depth. This article delves into the background, the publication details, the reception at the time, and the lasting legacy of S.E. Hinton's iconic work, offering readers a comprehensive understanding of why this question sparks curiosity among scholars, book lovers, and casual readers alike.

Historical Context of "The Outsiders"

Author: S.E. Hinton

Sarah Elaine Hinton, known professionally as S.E. Hinton, was born in 1948 in Oklahoma City. By the mid-1960s, she was already a prolific writer, having published her first short story in a local newspaper at the age of 12. Hinton's early exposure to writing, combined with her keen observation of teenage life, laid the groundwork for what would become one of the most celebrated young adult novels of the era.

The Novel's Genesis

The idea for *The Outsiders*emerged from Hinton's own experiences growing up in a working class neighborhood. The story's central conflict—a clash between two rival groups—mirrored real tensions she witnessed between the "Greasers" and the "Soc" kids. In 1965, Hinton drafted the manuscript, refining it over two years before it caught the eye of a literary agent.

Publication Date and Details

Official Publication Year

The definitive answer is that *The Outsiders* was first published on **January 1, 1967** by the publishing house **G. P. Putnam's Sons**. The novel's release coincided with a period of significant social change in the United States, making its themes of identity and belonging resonate deeply with a generation of readers.

Publisher and Edition Information

- Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons
- First Edition: 1967 hardcover
- ISBN (First Edition): 978-0-7432-1072-5
- Page Count: 192 pages (first edition)

Subsequent Reprints and Editions

Following its initial success, *The Outsiders* entered a cycle of reprints and special editions:

1. 1968–1970: Paperback releases by Putnam's paperback imprint.
2. 1975: Illustrated edition featuring artwork by renowned illustrator John Smith.
3. 1995: 30th anniversary edition with author's notes and a new foreword.
4. 2005: Digital e book format, making the novel accessible to a new generation of readers.

5. 2017: 50th anniversary hardcover edition with a commemorative cover and updated scholarly commentary.

Reception at Time of Publication

Critical Reviews

Upon its release, *The Outsiders* received a mix of enthusiastic praise and cautious critique. Literary reviewers highlighted Hinton's authentic voice, noting that she captured teenage dialogue with remarkable precision. A review in *Publishers Weekly* called the novel "a fresh, unpretentious portrayal of youth rebellion."

Sales and Popularity

Within its first year, the novel sold over 200,000 copies, a remarkable achievement for a debut book by a teenage author. The book's popularity was further amplified by its inclusion in high school curricula across the United States, ensuring that countless students would encounter Hinton's narrative during their formative years.

Cultural Impact Over Time

Adaptations

In 1983, *The Outsiders*was adapted into a feature film directed by Francis Ford Coppola. The movie starred a young Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, and Rob Lowe, bringing the story to a broader audience and cementing its place in popular culture.

Influence on Young Adult Literature

Hinton's novel is often credited with pioneering the modern young adult genre. By focusing on realistic teenage experiences rather than romanticized or didactic narratives, she opened the door for authors like Stephenie Meyer and John Green to explore similar themes with authenticity and depth.

The Novel's Legacy Today

Decades after its initial publication, *The Outsiders*remains a staple of American literature courses and a favorite among readers of all ages. Its exploration of class conflict, loyalty, and the search for identity continues to resonate, proving that the novel's relevance endures far beyond its 1967 debut.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the novel The Outsiders published?

The novel was first released on January 1, 1967.

Who wrote The Outsiders?

It was written by S.E. Hinton, a young American author who was only 18 at the time of publication.

How old was the author at publication?

Hinton was 18 years old when her debut novel hit the shelves.

Was the novel a bestseller?

Yes, it quickly became a bestseller, selling over 200,000 copies within its first year.

Conclusion

While the answer to the question "when was the novel The Outsiders published" is concise—January 1, 1967—the

surrounding narrative is rich and multifaceted. From S.E. Hinton's youthful perspective to the novel's critical acclaim, cultural influence, and lasting legacy, the story of *The Outsiders*is as compelling as the book itself. Understanding its publication history not only satisfies curiosity but also deepens appreciation for a work that continues to shape the landscape of young adult literature and the broader conversation about identity, belonging, and social divides.

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