SYNOPSIS
Ryan Atwood is sixteen and comes from Chino, a poor town, in California. His mom, Dawn, is a drunk and his older brother, Trey, is often in trouble. One night, Trey talks Ryan into stealing a car but they both get picked up by the police. Ryan is let out on probation, thanks to his attorney, Sandy Cohen.

Dawn throws Ryan out of the house, and with no one to turn to, he calls Sandy. Sandy takes him to his home in Newport Beach in the O.C. There, Ryan meets Marissa, the girl next door, and Seth Cohen, Sandy’s son. There is an immediate attraction between Ryan and Marissa, and Seth and Ryan strike up an unlikely friendship.

Ryan has his first taste of Newport nightlife at a beach party, full of rich kids. Seth gets into a fight with Marissa’s boyfriend, Luke, and his friends, but Ryan steps in to help him. Later that night, Ryan sees Marissa lying drunk outside her house where her friends have left her. He takes her to the safety of the Cohens’ pool house.

The next morning, Kirsten, Seth's mom, is furious that Seth has been drinking and fighting, and blames Ryan. Ryan decides to go back to Chino, but when he gets there, he finds an empty house. With nowhere to go once again, he returns to the O.C. with Sandy.

THE BACK STORY
The Oc was first shown on TV in August 2003 and ran for four series. The glamorous lifestyle and characters, compelling storylines and great music made it a big hit with teenagers.

The show centres round the idea of a poor kid with a troubled background living in a very rich town, full of rich kids. The storylines deal with teenage issues of love, self-esteem and peer pressure. They examine the concept of stereotyping and what happens when people start to look beneath the surface of the people around them.

In 2007, the show came to an end. OC creator Josh Schwartz said, 'It's been amazing. To a certain audience, The OC has really meant something.'

The Outsider is based on the pilot episode in the first series.

Media Links
DVD: Series 1-3 of The OC are currently available on DVD.
CD: A recording of The Outsider is available to accompany the Scholastic reader.
Internet: Find out more about the series at www.fox.com/oc.
Books: The OC: The Gamble and The OC: The Misfits are also available in the Scholastic readers series at level 3.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC MEDIA READER
Choosing and motivating
Is this the right story for your class? Have they heard of The OC? How many students have seen it? Do they want to read The Outsider? If not, choose another book! Motivate students with some background information and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere and emotion.

Organising
Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader or extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each section of reading. (All answers on page 4.)

Using the DVD
Try to get the English language version DVD of the first series of The OC. The Outsider is the first episode in the series. Watch it yourself first to check that it is suitable for your class. Show it in chunks of, say, 5 minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule, pausing at the end of a scene. Alternatively, show the whole programme after students have finished the book, as a reward. (See also page 4 of this resource sheet for other ideas.)

Using the CD
Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Glossary
Go to 'New Words' at the end of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Casual language
Introduce the informal expressions used in The Outsider (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource). Put them into context. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises
Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 54-56. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after.

Feedback
Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions. Check resource sheet exercise answers with the whole class.

Fact Files
After the story, there are 3 Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What did they think?
Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of The Outsider. Compare opinions. Did you like it? Let us know at: readers@link2English.com.
h) Marissa tries on dresses for the fashion show. 
   i) Marissa's credit card doesn't work.

2 What do you think?
   a) What problems does Marissa have? What is she worried about?
   b) Why does Marissa want to buy the Pucci dress so much? Do you think clothes show who you are?

Chapter 3: I'm not in Chino anymore
1 Answer the questions.
   a) How long is Ryan going to stay with the Cohens?
   b) Is Seth happy that Ryan's staying with them? Why/Why not?
   c) Does Marissa believe Ryan when he tells her that he stole a car?
   d) Who does Marissa think Ryan is?
   e) Who arrives when Marissa is talking to Ryan and Sandy?
   f) Where does Ryan sleep? Why?

Chapter 4: The outsiders
1 Complete the sentences with the correct words.
   a) Seth thinks Ryan's life is the same as / different to his life.
   b) The next day Ryan and Seth read comics / play a PlayStation game.
   c) Seth and Ryan go sailing / swimming.
   d) Seth tells Ryan he wants to sail to Tahiti with Summer / in the Summer Breeze.
   e) Marissa often invites / has never invited Seth to do things.
   f) Marissa watches Seth, Sandy and Ryan from her bedroom window / the beach.

2 Complete the sentences with these words.
   alone     dreams     geek     home     spoken     stop
   a) The other kids in Newport think Seth is a …………………… .
   b) Marissa can't …………………… thinking about Ryan.
   c) Seth understands how it feels to be sad and …………………… .
   d) Ryan is surprised that Seth has …………………… and plans.
   e) When they went sailing, Ryan was thinking about ……………… .
   f) Seth has never …………………… to Summer.

Chapter 5: The fashion show
1 Make sentences.
   a) Summer invites i to get lost.
   b) Everyone wants ii) in Newport isn't so perfect.
   c) Luke tells Seth iii) to a party after the show.
   d) Ryan thinks Marissa iv) looks beautiful.
   e) Ryan realises maybe life v) drank two glasses of champagne.
   f) Summer and Marissa vi) to talk to Ryan at the show.

2 Answer the questions.
   a) Ryan sees Jimmy Cooper crying. Why is Jimmy upset, do you think?
   b) Luke sees Marissa looking at Ryan. How does he feel, do you think?
Chapter 6: Welcome to the O.C.

1 Order the events.
   a) Summer is a bit drunk and puts her arm round Ryan.
   b) Luke disappears with another girl, Nikki.
   c) Seth and Ryan have a fight with Luke and his friends.
   d) Seth walks to the beach but has problems with Nordlund and Saunders.
   e) Ryan can't wake Marissa so he takes her to the pool house.
   f) Holly and Summer take Marissa home and leave her outside her house.
   g) Ryan and Seth arrive at Holly's party.
   h) Seth sees Summer trying to kiss Ryan.

2 Who says these things? Who do they say them to? In what situation?
   a) 'Welcome to the dark side.' Ryan tells Seth, when they arrive at Holly's party.
   b) 'What do you think of Newport?' Summer says to Marissa.
   c) 'Go back to Chino. Steal another car.' Seth tells Luke.
   d) 'Go home, geek.' Luke says to Marissa.
   e) 'Welcome to the O.C.' Ryan tells Kirsten.
   f) 'You were … totally there for me.' Luke tells Ryan.

Chapter 7: Back to Chino

1 Find words to complete the sentences.
   a) When Kirsten finds out about the fight, she wants Ryan to …………..
   b) Ryan tells Kirsten she has a really nice …………………
   c) Seth gives Ryan a ………………… as a present.
   d) When Ryan arrives back in Chino, the door to the house is …………………
   e) Ryan finds a ………………… from his mom.

2 Answer the questions. How do the characters feel?
   a) What does Kirsten think when she sees Seth's face?
   b) Why does Ryan cook breakfast? How does he feel, do you think?
   c) What does Marissa think when she sees Ryan leave?
   d) How does Ryan feel when he finds the note from his mom?
   f) Why does Ryan go back to the Cohens' house?

FINAL TASKS

1 Writing. Choose a character from the story. Choose one of the days in the story and write a page from their diary or blog.

2 Speaking. Work in pairs. Choose one of the photos in the book. Describe what is happening. Say why it's important in the story and what happens before and after.
THE OC ON TV (pages 48–9)

Interview
Students work in pairs. One student is a journalist and the other chooses an actor from the OC. The students prepare questions and answers about what it is like to work in the series, based on the information in the Fact File. Example questions could be:
Where do the crew film? Where do most of the OC team live?
Who is the director? Are you friends with the other actors? etc.
If you prefer, give the class the journalist’s questions and ask students to prepare the interview in pairs.

BENJAMIN McKENZIE (pages 50–1)
Quiz
Students read the interview with Ben McKenzie. Then in pairs, students prepare 5-10 questions about Ben and test each other, e.g. What did Ben study at university? What kind of music does he like? How is he similar to Ryan? etc.

THE REAL NEWPORT BEACH (pages 52–3)
Project
Ask students to do an ‘insider’s guide’ to their local area for teenagers from another country. Where are the best places to hang out? Where’s the best place to go for a drink/snack? Where shouldn’t you go?
Divide the class into groups. One group researches cool places to go in their local area and write short reports on each place. One group conducts interviews with friends on where they spend their time, taking digital photos if they can. A third group researches famous people or events, linked to their area.
All groups present their project on large sheets of paper in a magazine-style format.

DVD and CD FOLLOW-UP
If you plan to show the programme in class, watch it yourself first to check it is suitable for your class. Identify good places to pause. The dialogue is fast and slangy with American accents.

What happens next?
Freeze-frame a scene or stop the CD just before a dramatic moment. Students say what is about to happen and what has just happened.

What are they saying?
When students are familiar with the story, choose a dramatic scene (e.g. the fight at the party). Play the scene without sound. Ask students to suggest what the characters are saying. Then students work in small groups and write the dialogue for the scene and then act it out. Finally the whole class watches the scene with sound. Compare the two dialogues.

Casual language
Use the CD to focus on items of casual language (see page 3 of this resource). Play the relevant sections several times and use a model for drilling, focusing on intonation.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 54–6)
1  a) beer, get drunk  b) hell  c) stole, arrest  d) prison
  e) under arrest, handcuffed  f) credit card  g) shop assistant
2  b
3  a) Ryan because he’s not from the O.C.; Seth because he doesn’t have any real friends.
  4  a) Theresa  b) Trey  c) Ryan  d) Jimmy  e) Marissa  f) Julie
6  a) attorney, guard, kid, nephew  b) probation, suit  c) sail
7  a) sailing  b) suit  c) attorney, probation  d) kid  e) guard
  f) nephew

8  a) gets  b) Ryan  c) is
9  c) f and h are true; a, b, d, e, f, and g are false.
  a) Ryan and A.J. have a fight and then Ryan leaves.
  b) Kirsten isn’t happy that Sandy has brought Ryan home.
  d) Ryan thinks Marissa is good-looking.
  e) Marissa invites Ryan to the fashion show.
  f) Seth tells Ryan about his dream of sailing in Summer Breeze with Summer.
  g) Seth thinks Summer will be at the fashion show.
11  a) a fashion show  b) to open something
  c) family, boy/girlfriend
13  a) Because they want to know who he is.  b) Because he sees Jimmy has got red eyes and doesn’t look happy.
  c) Because he sees Summer with Ryan and thinks Ryan likes her.
  d) Yes, he goes down to the beach and fights Luke and his friends.
  e) Because she’s lying unconscious outside her house.
  f) Ryan takes her to the pool house.
  g) Because she thinks it’s his fault that Seth got drunk and got in a fight.
  h) Because he has nowhere else to go.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places
1  a) Luke  b) Theresa  c) Seth  d) Sandy  e) Ryan  f) Marissa
  g) Summer  h) Trey

Chapter 1
1  a) lots of trouble, poor  b) beautiful beaches, rich
  2  a) Because his mom and A.J. are fighting and he doesn’t want to go home.
  c) Where: They go to a party.
  d) What: He hears some dangerous people talking to Trey. They say that Trey has to pay them five thousand dollars.
  e) Why: Because Trey wants to leave Chino.

Chapter 2
1  2 1 i)  3 4 h)  5 f)  6 b)  7 e)  8 c)  9 g)
2  Possible answers: a) She’s bored of always doing the same things with the same people. She’s worried about her dad.
  b) Because it’s different from her usual style. She wants people to see the real Marissa.

Chapter 3
2  a) For the weekend.  b) No, because he doesn’t like most kids of his age.
  c) No, she doesn’t.
  d) The Cohens’ nephew.
  f) He sleeps in the pool house because Kirsten doesn’t want him in the house.

Chapter 4
1  b) play a PlayStation game  c) sailing  d) with Summer
  e) has never invited  f) her bedroom window
  2  b) stop  c) alone  d) dreams  e) home  f) spoken

Chapter 5
1  b) vi  c) i  d) iv  e) ii  f) v
2  Possible answers: a) He’s worried about money.
  b) He feels jealous.

Chapter 6
1  2 1 b)  3 a)  4 h)  5 d)  6 c)  7 f)  8 e)
2  b) Marissa to Ryan during the party.
  c) Seth to Ryan (after seeing Summer and Ryan together).
  d) Nordlund to Seth when he sees him alone on the beach.
  e) Luke, to Seth and Ryan (after the fight).
  f) Seth to Ryan (when they get back home after the fight).

Chapter 7
1  Possible answers: b) family  c) map  d) open  e) note
2  a) She’s thinks it’s Ryan’s fault. She’s angry.  b) He wants to do something nice for the Cohens. He probably feels sad and lonely.
  c) She thinks that he rescued her and she’ll never see him again.
  She feels sad.
  d) He is very upset.
  e) He goes because he has no choice.

Vocabulary Builder
1  (1) stole  (2) arrested  (3) guard  (4) attorney  (5) suit  (6) kid  (7) probation  (8) drunk
2  2. street = catwalk  3. kicked = kissed  4. jacket = key
  5. friend = nephew.  6. mobile phone = credit card
  7. orange = outsider  8. orange juice = beer
  feel sad = get drunk.

Casual Language
a) hang out  b) cute  c) Get lost!  d) geek  e) totally