

Close Reading: The Outsiders Chapter One

When I STEPPED OUT into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like Paul Newman-- he looks tough and I don't--- but I guess my own looks aren't so bad. I have light-brown, almost-red hair and greenish-gray eyes. I wish they were more gray, because I hate most guys that have green eyes, but I have to be content with what I have. My hair is longer than a lot of boys wear theirs, squared off in back and long at the front and sides, but I am a greaser and most of my neighborhood rarely bothers to get a haircut. Besides, I look better with long hair.

I had a long walk home and no company, but I usually lone it anyway, for no reason except that I like to watch movies undisturbed so I can get into them and live them with the actors. When I see a movie with someone it's kind of uncomfortable, like having someone read your book over your shoulder. I'm different that way. I mean, my second-oldest brother, Soda, who is sixteen-going-on-seventeen, never cracks a book at all, and my oldest brother, Darrel, who we call Darry, works too long and hard to be interested in a story or drawing a picture, so I'm not like them. And nobody in our gang digs movies and books the way I do. For a while there, I thought I was the only person in the world that did. So I loned it.

Soda tries to understand, at least, which is more than Darry does. But then, Soda is different from anybody; he understands everything, almost. Like he's never hollering at me all the time the way Darry is, or treating me as if I was six instead of fourteen. I love Soda more than I've ever loved anyone, even Mom and Dad. He's always happy-go-lucky and grinning, while Darry's hard and firm and rarely grins at all. But then, Darry's gone through a lot in his twenty years, grown up too fast. Sodapop'll never grow up at all. I don't know which way's the best. I'll find out one of these days.

1. Why does Hinton tell us that Ponyboy only has "two things on [his] mind"?

2. Why would the author reference an actor as someone Pony would like to look like? What are some special qualities that a young boy would want that an actor has?

3. What can the reference to the eye colors of gray and green represent?

4. Ponyboy says the people in his neighborhood "rarely bother to get a haircut." What do learn / what can we infer about his neighborhood from this?

5. Why does Ponyboy's group call themselves "greasers"?

6. Why does Ponyboy like to go to the movies alone?

7. What inference can we make about Ponyboy's relationship with his brothers?

Mrs. Barth Name_____Date_____Mod_____

The Outsiders Movie Trailer

From the list of themes below, which themes were present in the trailer? Give an example of how these themes were demonstrated in the video and talked about at least 3 themes. **(1-2 CLAIM PARAGRAPHS)**

Violence

Transformation

Man v. Evil

Social Class Conflict

Stepping into Someone Else's Shoes

Love and Family Relationships

Prejudice

Guided Questions:

- What visual examples are there to represent the theme?
- How does music help support the theme?