

## THE OUTSIDERS: CHAPTER QUESTIONS



## Chapter One

1. Who are the socs? Who are the greasers?
2. How do Ponyboy's relationships with Darry and Sodapop differ? Explain.
3. Why is the 'gang' important to Johnny?
4. Do you think Darry loves Ponyboy? Why does he treat Ponyboy the way he does?
5. What does Ponyboy mean on page 18 when he says, "I lie to myself all the time"? Do you ever lie to yourself? Why?

## Chapter Two

1. Who is the fuzz? (p. 20)
2. Are the names Ponyboy and Sodapop nicknames? Explain.
3. Who are Cherry and Marcia?
4. Why doesn't Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
5. Why does Dally look sick now (p. 32-33)?

## **Chapter Three**

1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the Greasers?
2. When and how did Pony's parents die?
3. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?
4. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?
5. At the end of the chapter, how does the author foreshadow that bad things are to come?

## **Chapter Four**

1. What does Pony mean when he says the socs were "reeling pickled" on page 54?
2. What major event happens in this chapter?
3. How did the author foreshadow that Johnny would use his knife in chapter 2?
4. What would your advice be to Johnny and Ponyboy if they'd come to you for help instead of Dally? Explain.



## **Chapter Five**

1. Why does Pony have a problem with Johnny's idea to disguise themselves?
2. Why does Pony realize he does like Dally? Can you explain what he means by this?
3. Who's the spy for the greasers? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

## **Chapter Six**

1. Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in?
2. What "other side" of Dallas is revealed in this chapter?
3. Why do you think Johnny wasn't scared, despite the obvious danger, on page 92?

## Chapter Seven

1. Why would being crippled be worse for Johnny than someone else?
2. Why would Two-Bit think Johnny, Dally, and Pony were heroes all along; before they saved the kids?
3. What was Bob's 'real' problem, according to Randy (p.116)?

## Chapter Eight

1. How does what the doctor first says, on page 119, foreshadow Johnny's condition?
2. "We needed Johnny as much as he needed the gang. And for the same reason" (p.121). What do you think Pony means, and what is the reason?
4. If Darry didn't have Soda and Pony, why would he be a soc?
5. What does Cherry mean when she says Bob "wasn't just anyone" on p.129?

## Chapter Nine

1. On the bottom of p.133, when Pony asks what kind of a world it is, what comment is he making about how society judges people?
2. Why do the boys fight? Why is Pony different?
3. What is the difference between Tim Sheppard's gang and Ponyboy's? Explain how Pony feels this difference might give his group the upper hand?
4. What do you think Johnny's last words to Pony mean?



## **Chapter Ten**

1. How does Pony's dreaming, or lying to himself, finally work in this chapter?
2. Why was Johnny's dying so difficult for Dally to handle?
3. Why do you think Dally would have wanted to die?

## **Chapter Eleven**

1. Explain why Pony might rather have anyone's hate than their pity (p.162)?
2. What do you think is going on with Ponyboy when he says, "Johnny didn't have anything to do with Bob's getting killed" (p.166)?

## **Chapter Twelve**

1. Why doesn't Ponyboy feel scared when the Socs approach him and he threatens them with a broken bottle (p.170-171)? How is this a dramatic change from the Ponyboy we have seen up until this point?
2. What does Darry mean when he says, "you don't just stop living because you lose someone" (p.173)?
3. What do we learn was so special about Johnny (p.178)?



