

The Outsiders
Chapter One

Directions: After reading chapter one, answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. From what point of view is this novel told? Why would Hinton choose to use this point of view?
2. How does the narrator describe himself?
3. Why does he like to go to the movies alone? What character trait does this preference reveal in him?
4. What happened to the narrator's parents?
5. What happens to him on the way home from the movies?
6. Quote text from the novel that best supports the inference that the attack on Johnny was a turning point for him.
7. Infer how the narrator feels as he is being followed. What signs does he exhibit that tell you this is how he feels?
8. What do we learn is the name of the narrator?
9. Why is Ponyboy so reluctant to tell Darry how he really feels after the incident with the Socs?
10. Why would Ponyboy want to be in a Greaser gang? What is he attempting to find in the gang that is missing from his life?
11. Why do the Greasers dress the way they do? What image are they attempting to convey? Why do they want to portray this image?
12. Although it is not stated directly, why is Darry so strict with Ponyboy? What might happen if Ponyboy were to get into trouble?
13. Infer what the Greasers might do as a result of the attack.
14. Why might the author have dedicated several paragraphs from the chapter to tell about each of the boys in Ponyboy's life?
15. How did Two-Bit get his nickname? What is his real name?
16. According to Ponyboy, what is different about Dally from the rest of the guys?
17. Why does Darry work so hard?
18. What does Sodapop tell Ponyboy about his plans for Sandy and himself?
19. Describe Ponyboy, Soda, and Darry's relationship with each other.
20. Do any of the brothers remind you of characters within your own family or circle of friends? Explain.

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Chapter Two Questions.

Directions: After reading chapter two answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. How do the boys get into the Nightly Double? Why do they choose to do that?
2. Why does Dally use vulgar and abrasive language with the girls at the movies?
3. How do the girls respond to the insults? From their reactions, what can you infer about their personalities?
4. What does Cherry mean when she calls Sodapop a “doll”?
5. Why is Ponyboy embarrassed about Sodapop dropping out of school and working at a gas station? In your opinion, should he be embarrassed?
6. Why is Ponyboy uncomfortable about Dally’s behavior?
7. Explain why the girls are okay with Johnny and Pony, but not Dally.
8. Why are the girls alone and without a car?
9. What does Two-Bit do that scares Johnny and Pony? Infer why it is especially frightening to Johnny.
10. What rule do the Greasers follow, besides “stick together”? How do you think these rules came to be?
11. Describe the attack on Johnny. Why do you think the attack was so traumatic to him?
12. What theme does the conflict between the Socs and the Greasers reveal?

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Chapter Three

Directions: After reading chapter three answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What does Cherry tell Ponyboy about the Socs?
2. What do the Socs and the Greasers have in common? What would their constant fighting suggest about their differences and similarities?
3. Relate the story of Mickey Mouse and Soda. Why do you think it was included in the novel?
4. Explain the reference to watching the sunset. Why is it important to the buildup of the relationship between Cherry Valance and Ponyboy?
5. After all the vulgar language and abuse at the movies, evaluate why Cherry would “fall in love” with Dally. Considering the characters, assess how realistic this seems.
6. When the blue Mustang rolls up, what are its occupants hoping to do? What do the Greasers think they want?
7. Compare and contrast the way the Greasers and by the Socs treat the girls. Which group treats them better? Provide evidence.
8. Give your opinion of Cherry saying, “...if I see you in the hall at school or someplace and don’t say hi, well, it’s not personal...” Explain the reasons for your point of view.
9. What do Pony and Johnny do instead of going home after the movies? What is the result of their decision?
10. When Ponyboy doesn’t arrive home until 2:00 a.m., why doesn’t Darry call the police?
11. After Darry slaps Ponyboy, Ponyboy concludes that Darry does not want him around. Argue whether this actually how Darry feels, or if Ponyboy is overreacting. Provide evidence for your opinion.
12. Why do Ponyboy and Johnny run away?
13. Infer why Johnny says he likes it better when his father is hitting him.
14. Paraphrase why Darry seems like such an angry person.
15. Ponyboy and Johnny walk through the park trying to decide whether or not they are going to run away for real. What deeper symbolism has Hinton incorporated here by deciding to have the boys walk through a park instead of somewhere else?

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Chapter Four

Directions: After reading chapter four answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always Provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What happens to Ponyboy at the park?
2. Ponyboy says that he and Johnny would “never let them have the satisfaction of knowing” that the Socs scared them to death. Why? What does it say about the value that Johnny and Ponyboy place on the Greasers’ reputation?
3. Why does Johnny go after Bob? What is the result?
4. Why does Johnny react so violently to the Socs?
5. Johnny reacts with calmness after the incident with Bob, while Ponyboy becomes hysterical. Why do you think they react differently?
6. As Ponyboy becomes sick, why does Johnny tell Ponyboy that he won’t look at him?
7. To whom do Ponyboy and Johnny go for help? What does he give them? What does he tell them to do?
8. How do the boys get to where they are going? Where do they plan to stay?
9. On the way there, Johnny says he “couldn’t shoot anybody” despite just having stabbed someone. How do we explain this? What is the difference between these two acts?
10. Ponyboy wishes to go to the country in the earlier chapters of the novel, but once he gets there, he doesn’t like it and says that “there are worse things than being a greaser.” Why is his experience so different from his dream of visiting it? What is the main thing that is missing from the reality that was present in his fantasy?
11. Why do you think the author included the flashback to when all the guys went to church together? Do you think it was important to include that scene? Why?
12. Make a prediction about Ponyboy’s “premonition.” How could this be a hint of something that is being foreshadowed?

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Chapter Five

Directions: After reading chapter five, answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. When Pony wakes up, why is he alone? What does Johnny bring back?
2. What different things would you buy as supplies? Remember, they did their shopping at a grocery store, so keep your answers realistic to things that you could find there.
3. What do the boys do to disguise themselves? Why is Pony so reluctant to do anything with his hair?
4. Johnny states that when people go to jail, the authorities cut their hair to “break” them. Why would he think this? What does this say about his opinion of authority? Why is hair really cut when people are sent to jail?
5. How did the boys show their feelings as emotion overcame them? Do you think their behavior was “in character” or did it deviate from the image the writer was trying to create? Explain.
6. Read the following quote, which took place after the boys cried. “...for the first time since Dally and I had sat down behind those girls at the Nightly Double, I relaxed. We could take whatever was coming now.” Based on this passage, what we can infer about how Ponyboy is feeling?
7. How do they pass the time over the next few days? What do they eat?
8. Ponyboy realizes he likes Soda, Two-Bit, and Darry’s qualities that are like heroes in novels, while Johnny likes Dally because he is “real.” What does this mean? Why would Ponyboy relate more to people who portray the characteristics of a character in a novel, while Johnny is enamored with characters who are realistic?
9. Why does Ponyboy get sick on the fifth day at the church?
10. What does Dally bring to Ponyboy from Sodapop? What does Pony learn from it about Darry’s feelings?
11. How was Dally able to mislead the police?
12. Dally tells Johnny and Ponyboy not to pick up his bad habits. What does he mean by this? Is it a little late, now, to be telling the two boys this? Why or why not?
13. Where do they go in Buck’s car?
14. When Dally says that his heater “sure does help a bluff...” what does he mean?
15. Who is the “spy” Dally speaks of?
16. Interpret what Ponyboy means when he says, “things are happening too quick. Too fast.” Do you ever get a similar feeling in your own life? Explain.

The Outsiders Chapter Six

Directions: After reading chapter six, answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. "The spy" thinks the whole mess is her fault. Dally agrees that it is. Thinking back on the story, do you believe the trouble they are all in is because of her? Explain.
2. What does Johnny announce that he and Pony are going to do? Why does he think it is best? Do you agree or disagree with their decision. Why?
3. What does Dally tell Johnny when he asks about his parents? How does Johnny react? How is his reaction different from how Dally would react?
4. After Johnny asks about his parents, Ponyboy says that he feels bad for Dally. Why would he feel bad for Dally instead of Johnny?
5. Ponyboy outlines the different functions within their group. Do you think there is a hierarchy within the group? Where does Ponyboy fit into this? Where does Dally fit?
6. What is happening at the church when they return? Describe what they do about it.
7. Why does Ponyboy feel so inclined to risk his life?
8. While in the church, Johnny appears to act completely differently from how he normally does. Why do you think he does so?
9. What is Dally's motivation for clubbing Pony across the back?
10. Discuss how Pony and Johnny's decision to help the children changes the action of the story. Cite textual evidence to support your response.
11. Where are they headed when Pony wakes up? Where are Johnny and Dally? Describe each of the boys' injuries.
12. When in the ambulance, Ponyboy disputes it when the stranger tells him that he passed out. Why is this? What does this say about how Ponyboy believes in the Greaser image?
13. How do Soda and Darry react when they see Ponyboy?
14. Cite evidence from the novel that shows Ponyboy was wrong all along about the way Darry feels about him. How does Pony come to this realization?

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Chapter Seven

Directions: After reading chapter seven answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Describe what Soda is doing while the police are trying to interview Ponyboy.
2. What is the extent of Johnny's injuries? How are the boys able to get the doctor to tell them of Johnny's prognosis?
3. Explain why Ponyboy says to himself, "If? Please, no, I thought. Please not 'if'?"
4. After the boys talk to the doctor, they decide to go home and get some sleep. What do Darry's actions in that scene reveal about his true character?
5. Explain the reference to chocolate cake.
6. Why do the Curtis boys always leave their door unlocked? What does this reveal about the character of the gang members?
7. How did Two-Bit and Steve react when they saw Ponyboy? Is this a normal reaction for them? What does this say about the way that their group functions?
8. What does the newspaper say about the "heroes"? What does Two-Bit have to say about the wording the reporter chose?
9. The article does not use the word Socs. Ponyboy states this is because "most grownups don't know about the battles that go on between us." What does this say about the parental role in all of the boys' lives (both Socs and Greasers)? How do you think the scenario would be different if the parents were different?
10. How real, in your opinion, is the threat of putting Pony in a boys' home? Justify your answer, citing the text.
11. Recount the story of Pony's recurring dream.
12. What has happened to Soda's girlfriend, Sandy? Why? What do you think is the "real" story?
13. To what is Pony referring when he says, "...it's time for those guys from the state to come by and check up on us."
14. Briefly describe the conversation between Randy and Ponyboy.
15. Why does Randy decide to not go to the rumble?
16. From their conversation, what did you learn about the privileged class to which the Socs belong? How do you think some people come to feel entitlement?
17. Is there a way in which someone could be rich, but not have a sense of entitlement as a child? How can this be accomplished?
18. Randy says, "You get a little money and the whole world hates you." Pony replies, "No, you hate the whole world." Which of these statements, in your opinion, is true? Explain your answer.

The Outsiders Chapter Eight

Directions: After reading chapter eight answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What do you think the doctor means when he says to the nurse, "Let them go in. He's been asking for them. It can't hurt now"?
2. Why do you think that Johnny asks for another copy of *Gone with the Wind*?
3. Ponyboy realizes that the gang needs Johnny. What is Johnny's greatest contribution to the gang?
4. Why does Johnny really want to live, even though he has thought of suicide in the past, and he would never be able to walk again?
5. When the nurse announces to Johnny that his mother is there to see him, how does he react? When Two-Bit and Ponyboy see Johnny's mother, what happens? How do they react? Why?
6. When Dally asks Two-Bit about his "fancy black-handled switch," what do you think was his reason for asking? Why do you think Two-Bit hands it over to him "without hesitation"?
7. Two-Bit says that the boys were the only thing keeping Darry from being a Soc. What does he mean? Do you think this is true? Why?
8. Pony had a sick feeling in his stomach about the rumble that night. Infer what you think he was worried about.
9. When Two-Bit calls him a chicken, Ponyboy says, "Ain't I a Curtis, same as Soda and Darry?" What can you infer from this statement?
10. Cherry tells Ponyboy about the kind of person Bob "really" was. How does she describe him?
11. Cherry says about Bob, "He could be sweet sometimes, and friendly. But when he got drunk...it was that part of him that beat up Johnny." Explain the differences between reason and excuse. Do you believe that if someone has been drinking, it is an excuse, or is it a reason, for inappropriate behavior? Try to use examples in your answer.
12. What was the author's purpose for writing at the end of Chapter 8, "She had green eyes"?

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Chapter Nine

Directions: After reading chapter nine answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What is Hinton's purpose for including Pony fussing over his beard before the rumble?
2. In the middle of stating that Greasers are proud of their Greaser reputation, Pony says that he doesn't want to be a hood. What does this say about Pony? Why does he continue to "rep" his Greaser status?
3. Pony and Curly once played chicken by holding cigarettes to each other's fingers. Why would they do that? Do you think it is worth whatever is to be gained?
4. How do the boys show their excitement about the rumble when they are at the Curtis house getting ready to head out?
5. Pony thinks the only good reason to fight is...?
6. Pony believes that he and Darry are both going to "get somewhere." What does that mean to him? Do you believe they have any choice in the matter? Discuss in detail.
7. Pony states that the Burmly boys have weird vocabularies. Why is this ironic? Cite examples from the text to support your answer.
8. Why, according to Ponyboy, do people usually think that any trouble is the fault of the Greasers, not the Socs? In your opinion, is that a fair assumption? Explain.
9. What are the rules for the rumble?
10. Who actually steps up to start the rumble? Who is his opponent and how does it happen that he is able to take the first swing? What is ironic about these two boys fighting against each other?
11. Pony says, " That's stupid... They've both come here to fight and they're both supposed to be smarter than that." Why would they show up anyway?
12. Which side wins the rumble? How is the winner determined?
13. Where do the boys go when the rumble ends? Convey what happens as they are on their way in Buck's car. How do they manage to be let off by the police?
14. What were Johnny's last words to Ponyboy? What do you think he meant?
15. Cite evidence from the novel that best supports the inference that Johnny's death was a turning point for Dally.

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Chapter Ten

Directions: After reading chapter ten answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Dally runs out “like the devil was after him” when he finds out Johnny is dead. According to Pony, why is Dally having so much trouble handling Johnny’s death?
2. Infer why Pony didn’t want his brothers to touch him after he told them about Johnny’s death.
3. When Dally calls them on the phone, what is his message?
4. Without even talking about it, the group decides to help Dally. How does this demonstration reveal an important theme of the novel?
5. According to Ponyboy, Johnny died gallant. What does he mean? How does he feel this is different from the death of Dally?
6. Why do you think Ponyboy becomes so sick? What are his symptoms?
7. The narrator writes, “And the ground rushed up to meet me very suddenly.” What had really happened?
8. Pony wants to know if Darry is sorry that he is sick. Why?
9. Pony says that he and Darry go all-out for athletics and studying, but Soda does not. Why would these things be important to them, in particular? Why would Soda not understand it?
10. Ponyboy is very concerned about whether or not he asked for Darry while he was in the hospital. What can the reader infer about what Ponyboy is feeling?

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Chapter Eleven

Directions: After reading chapter eleven answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. After Ponyboy studies the picture of Bob in the yearbook, what conclusions does he make about him?
2. Why is Ponyboy uncomfortable with his classmates visiting his house?
3. Why do you think Ponyboy doesn't care what Randy thinks of their house?
4. What was Randy's purpose in visiting Pony? What was the outcome of their conversation?
5. During the conversation, Randy believes that if he tells the truth no one will get hurt and all he will have to do is pay a fine, while Ponyboy is worried about being put in a foster home. How do their different perspectives mirror their positions within society? Do you think Randy is sheltered from the harshness of the world? Explain your answer.
6. What do you think was Randy's purpose in visiting Ponyboy? Do you think he just wanted to talk to Ponyboy or something else? Do you think he got what he was looking for?
7. What is the author's purpose in having Ponyboy say that he is the one who killed Bob and insist that Johnny isn't dead?
8. Darry calls Ponyboy "little buddy." Why is this important to Pony? What does it indicate about their changing relationship?

The Outsiders **Chapter Twelve**

Directions: After reading chapter twelve answer the questions below on a separate google doc. As always provide your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. Even when facing possibly being split up, the boys say that Dally was their friend. Why is this so important? How could this have negatively affected the judge's decision?
2. Why do you think the judge's line of questioning is so easy on Ponyboy? Why is he acquitted?
3. Do you think the judge made the right choice in leaving the boys together? Explain your answer.
4. What happens to Ponyboy's schoolwork, memory, and attitude about himself after the hearing? What opportunity does his teacher give him to make up for his problems in school?
5. Ponyboy states that his teacher was a good guy and interested in him as a person. Do you feel this way about any of your teachers? Does this make you want to work harder for them?
6. Why do you think Greasers didn't eat in the cafeteria?
7. When the Socs show up, Ponyboy says he feels nothing. Why? Do you think this change in Ponyboy will be permanent? Do you think he would have used the bottle?
8. Why does Ponyboy pick up the glass? Why is this strange behavior, considering the surrounding events? Why is this action a relief to Two-Bit?
9. Why does Soda bolt out the door?
10. What do we find out about the real reason that Sandy went to Florida?
11. After Pony and Darry go find Soda, the three of them talk. What is the result of their conversation?
12. Summarize what was in the note from Johnny that Ponyboy found when it fell out of his book.
13. What does Ponyboy finally decide to write about in his theme?
14. What is significant about the last sentence of the novel? Why would Hinton choose to end her book like this?
15. In your opinion, what is the most likely reason that the author chose to write the novel from Ponyboy's point of view?