

The Outsiders, Chapter 2:

[A] Pre-Reading Questions:

1. What kind of person is the protagonist of this story?
2. How has their background affected who they are?

[B] Close Reading Questions (complete sentences):

1. How did the boys get into The Dingo? What does that say about them?
2. Why was Ponyboy embarrassed by Dally?
3. What does the hyperbole on the bottom of page 21 mean?
4. What do we learn about Ponyboy's father? Are you surprised?
5. What "fits" Dally but not Sodapop? Why?
6. What action is out of character for Johnny? Why do you think he acts that way?
7. What does Cherry mean when she says "you've seen too much to be innocent"? Do you think she's is correct? Explain.
8. Why can greasers call each other "greaser" if it is a slur (a derogatory term)?
9. Ponyboy is surprised that a tough hood like Dallas was sick when he saw Johnny after the Socs beat him up - were you surprised? What does this reaction show us about Dally? Why does Johnny avoid talking to girls?

[C] Open-Ended Response (Paragraph Form) PICK 1:

1. On page 26, Ponyboy compares gangs that don't stick together to wild animals. Do you agree or disagree? Why do you feel that way? How could this idea come into play later in the novel?
2. Cherry tells Ponyboy, "Things are rough all over" -- what prompted her to say that to him, and what does she mean by it? How does Ponyboy interpret what she says? Which one of them do you think is right, and why?

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