

The Outsiders: Additional Chapter Questions

Chapter One

1. What do you know about Ponyboy, Sodapop, and Darry?
2. Who are the Socs? Who are the Greasers?
3. How do Ponyboy's relationships with Darry and Sodapop differ? Explain.
4. Why is the 'gang' important to Johnny?
5. How does Ponyboy react to what Sodapop tells him about Darry?
6. 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? [pg. 20]
2. Are the names Ponyboy and Sodapop nicknames? Explain.
3. Who are Cherry and Marcia?
4. What happens at the drive-in?
5. Why doesn't Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
6. What is Ponyboy comparing Two-Bit to when he calls him a "chessy cat" on page 27? What figure of speech is this besides as simile?
7. What literary device does the author use to describe Johnny's mugging [pgs.31-34]?
8. What happened to Johnny?

Chapter Three

1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the socs and the greasers?
2. Why don't the Socs feel anything and the Greasers feel too violently?
3. What's the conflict?
4. What does Ponyboy mean on p.39 when he says "Johnny and I understood each other without saying anything?" Have you ever had a relationship with someone who you understood, or who understood you, without having to say anything? Why is that important?
5. What does Pony discover about the Socs who were in the car?
6. When and how did Pony's parents die?
7. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?
8. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?
9. 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.
5. How did the setting foreshadow the events in this chapter?
6. Do you think Bob's death was justice? Explain.

Chapter Five

1. Why does Pony have a problem with Johnny's idea to disguise themselves?
2. What does Pony mean when he says, "I was supposed to be the deep one" [p.75]?
3. Why does Johnny think is a hero [p.76]? Do you think Dally is a hero based on what he did?
4. On page 78, Johnny compares Pony and his brothers to their parents. Which one of your parents are you most like? What similarities do you share?
5. What's a 'heater'? Why does Dally have one?
6. Why are the socs and the greasers going to fight in the vacant lot?
7. Who's the spy for the greasers? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
8. What's the poem about on pg. 77 by Robert Frost?
9. What's a characteristic Pony repeats about himself in this chapter?
10. What is it that foreshadows Johnny's predicament on pg. 69?

Chapter Six

1. Do you think Dally's parents have influenced the way he is; his personality? Explain.
2. Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in?
3. What "other side" of Dallas is revealed in this chapter?
4. What's your own definition of a hero? Do the three boys prove themselves to be heroes, according to your definition? Explain.
5. Why do you think Johnny wasn't scared, despite the obvious danger, on page 92?
6. What does Pony realize about Darry at the end of this chapter?

Chapter Seven

1. What condition is Johnny in after the fire?
2. Why would being crippled be worse for Johnny than someone else?
3. "Maybe people are younger when they are asleep" [p.104]. What do you think about this comment?
4. What is a juvenile delinquent [p.107]? Find a definition on the internet, in a dictionary, or create your own based on your own knowledge.
5. Why would Two-Bit think Johnny, Dally, and Pony were heroes all along; before they saved the kids?
6. What was Bob's 'real' problem, according to Randy [p.116]?
7. Why did Pony think it was better to see socs as "just guys" on p.118? What do you think he means by this?
8. What happened with Sandy?
9. Why does Randy talk with Pony?

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?

3. What does Pony mean on p.123 when he says, “we could get along without anyone but Johnny”?
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.132, when Pony asks what kind of a world it is, what comment is he making about how he judges people?
2. Why do the boys fight? Is Pony different?
3. What is the difference between Tim Sheppard's gang and Ponyboy's? Explain how Pony feels this difference give his group the upper hand?
7. What do you think Johnny's last words to Pony mean?
8. What happened with Dally in the end?

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. Who do you think Dally would have wanted to die?
4. How does Pony describe Dally as being a person who made a difference on pg. 154?

Chapter Eleven

1. Explain why Pony might rather 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)?
3. Why does Randy come to visit Pony, beyond the obvious?
4. What did Randy discover in his conversation with Pony?

Chapter Twelve

1. What circumstances' did Ponyboy's teacher refer to? What circumstances does Ponyboy think his teacher is referring to?
2. 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? Was there anything odd about Pony's behavior?
3. What does Darry mean he says, "you don't just stop living because you lose someone"(p.173)?
4. How do we know Sandy didn't love Soda as much as he loved her? (p.174)
5. Explain how Darry and Ponyboy play tug of war with Soda.
6. What kind of guy is rare? (p. 178)
7. What do we learn was so special about Johnny (p,178)?
8. What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?
9. Where is the climax?
10. Why the title of the book? Who is the biggest Outsider of them all and why?