

The Outsiders Study Questions

Chapter 1

1. From what building is Ponyboy coming out when the book opens? Describe Ponyboy.
2. Name both of Pony's brothers. What are their ages, and how old is Pony? How are his two brothers different according to Pony? Which one is his favorite?
3. What are the two gangs and to which gang does Pony belong? How does one identify a "Soc" or a "Greaser"?
4. What happened to Pony's parents? Who raises him now?
5. Who trails Pony home? What do they try to do to him? Who saves him? Describe this person.
6. Describe the following gang members: Soda, Steve Randle, Two-Bit Matthews, Dally, Johnny.
7. Why does Pony think Darry does not like him? Who always takes up for Pony?
8. What did Darry have to give up in order to provide for the boys? Soda reminds Pony that Darry loves him. Does Pony believe it?

Chapter 2

1. What is the Dingo? How do Pony, Johnny, and Dally get into the Nightly Double?
2. What does Dally start doing with the two Soc girls inform of them? What are their names?
3. What does Cherry do when Dally hands her a Coke?
4. Why does Pony say one must stand up for one's buddies in a gang? Where are the girls' boyfriends?
5. Who joins them at the drive in? Who is looking for Dally? Why?
6. What happened to Johnny 4 months ago? How many Socs were there and what kind of car were they in? What does Johnny vow will never happen again? What does he carry now?
7. What insight does Cherry share with Pony about the Socs? What does she mean when she says "things are rough all over"? Does Pony believe her?

Chapter 3

1. What was the name of Soda's horse, and what happened to him? What was Soda's reaction?
2. What does Pony realize about the sunset that ties him and Cherry together? What does it say about two individuals who seem so different?
3. As the Greasers are walking the girls home, who pulls up beside them? What does Pony realize about the black-haired Soc?

4. What kind of place does Johnny wish he lived in? What do Pony and Johnny realize when they wake up?
5. How does Darry react when Pony comes in late? What does Pony do in response?
6. What does Johnny mean when he says he likes it better “when the old man’s hittin’ me”? Is Pony going to go home? Where do the boys decide to go first?

Chapter 4

9. Who surrounds Pony and Johnny in the park?
10. What does Bob do to Pony before he blacks out? How is Pony saved?
11. Why is Johnny not nervous anymore?
12. Where do Pony and Johnny find Dally?
13. What does Dally provide them with?
14. How do Pony and Johnny get to Windrixville?
15. What excuse do Pony and Johnny use when asking directions to Jay Mountain? Where on Jay Mountain do they hide?

Chapter 5

8. Where is Johnny when Pony wakes up the next morning? Name some of the items he bought.
9. What do Pony and Johnny have to do to their hair?
10. How do Pony and Johnny kill time over the next four or five days? What impressed Johnny about the book they are reading? How was Dally “gallant” according to Johnny?
11. What is the poem Pony quotes? What is the point of the poem?
12. When Dally shows up, he gives Pony a letter. Who is it from? Where do the police think Pony and Johnny are?
13. What does Dally said is going to happen tomorrow night?
14. What are the terms of this event? Who is the spy for the Greasers that assures them the terms will be kept?

Chapter 6

1. Why is Cherry helping the Greasers? What is she willing to testify in court about Bob’s killing?
2. What does Johnny decide he is going to do? Why?
3. Have Johnny’s parents asked about him while he was gone?

4. Why does Dally not want Johnny to spend time in jail?
5. What is happening to the church as they pull up? Who else is there?
6. What does Pony notice about Johnny as they run into the church to rescue the children?
7. Who is in the ambulance with Pony when he wakes up? What saves him from being burned badly?
8. What injuries do Dally and Johnny have?
9. What does Pony realize about Darry when he sees him? What has been Darry's silent fear all along?

Chapter 7

1. Soda entertains the reporters and policeman as they question the boys at the hospital. Of what animal does Soda remind Pony and why?
2. Is Johnny expected to live? How does Pony react?
3. What observation does Pony make about people who are asleep?
4. Why do the Curtis brothers never keep the front door locked at night?
5. According to the newspaper article titled "Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes," who else testifies besides Cherry that the Socs were in the wrong?
6. What sport do we learn that Pony is quite good at playing?
7. What possibility for Soda and Pony does the article mention?
8. Why does the fact that Pony had a nightmare the previous night worry Darry?
9. Why does Soda's girlfriend Sandy have to go live with her grandparents in Florida?
10. Who tails Pony and Two-Bit to the Tasty Freeze? Who talks with Pony alone?
11. What does he tell Pony that Bob wanted from his parents or from anyone –why?
12. Why is this person not going to the rumble?
13. What does Pony realize about this person and about Socs in general?

Chapter 8

14. What two things does Johnny want Pony and Two-Bit to get for him?
15. What does he mean when he says "Sixteen years ain't long enough" (107)?
16. What does Johnny say when his mother comes to see him? How does she respond when she sees Two-Bit and Pony in the hallway?
17. How does Pony feel about Dally now? How did he feel about Dally at the beginning of the novel?

18. Why does Two-Bit say that Darry would have been a Soc if it hadn't been for them?
19. What does Cherry tell them about the rumble?
20. Why does she refuse to go see Johnny? What made Bob special, according to Cherry? How does Pony react to her? What comments cause them to part as friends?

Chapter 9

21. How many aspirins does Pony have to take to keep in fighting shape?
22. Who is Curly Shepard and why can't he come to the rumble?
23. Why do each of the guys like to fight according to Pony's survey? Why does Pony fight?
24. Of what animal does Tim Shepard remind Pony?
25. Why does Pony say that Darry is better than anyone else here?
26. Who is going to start the rumble and why?
27. Why were most of the Greasers worried about the "no weapons" rule?
28. Who stands up to take Darry on? Why does this stun Pony and Soda?
29. Who wins the rumble?
30. Where does Dally take Pony after the rumble?
31. According to Dally, why did Johnny get hurt?
32. What does Johnny tell Pony before he dies? What does this mean?

Chapter 10

1. Of what delusion does Pony convince himself at first?
2. Why can't Dally take the fact that Johnny is dead, according to Pony?
3. When Darry answers the phone, what do they learn about Dally? Where do they meet him?
4. What happens to Dally when he pulls out the unloaded gun before the police?
5. What does Pony realize Dally wanted all along?
6. How did Dally die, according to Pony?
7. What did Johnny leave for Pony before he died?
8. Did Pony ask for Darry while he was sick and delirious?

Chapter 11

9. Whose picture does Pony see in one of Soda's yearbooks? How does Pony see this person now?
10. Who comes to see Pony at home? Is he going to tell the truth at the hearing?
11. Pony begins saying he killed Bob, not Johnny. Why do you think he was so mixed up?
12. What does Darry call Pony at the end of the chapter? What does this show about their relationship?

Chapter 12

13. Why does the judge not ask Pony about Bob's death?
14. What does Pony's English teacher offer to let him do to be able to pass the class with a "C"?
15. How does Pony react to the Socs who approach him? Why does this bother Two-Bit?
16. Who does Pony begin reacting like in his thoughts?
17. When Pony yells back at Darry, what does Darry tell Pony about living and losing someone you love?
18. Why had Soda been so upset? What does Darry tell Pony about Soda's connection to Sandy?
19. What do Darry and Pony realize about Soda in regard to their fighting? What do they promise Soda?
20. Why does Pony pretend Johnny is still alive?
21. What does he find in Johnny's copy of *Gone with the Wind*? What does Johnny ask Pony to tell Dally?
22. What does Pony decided to write his composition about? How does it begin? Why is this important?

