**The Outsiders**

Chapter 1

1. Describe the narrator’s relationship with his two brothers and their family.
2. What happens to the narrator as he is walking home? Why is there an abrupt stop to the attack?
3. Name and describe three members of the gang.
4. What are the gang fights called here? How are they different from the fights in New York?
5. Explain the difference between ‘tough’ and ‘tuff’.
6. Describe the narrator’s relationship with his two brothers and their family situation.
7. What does the term “Soc” stand for?
8. Who are the Greasers?

Chapter 2

1. Who does Ponyboy befriend at the drive-in?
2. What does Johnny do that makes Dally mad? What is Dally’s reaction?
3. Two-Bit explains that Dally might be in a fight. What is his explanation?
4. Why did the two girls walk out on their boyfriends?
5. Why shouldn’t Two-Bit have scared Johnny the way he did?
6. How come people are looking at Ponyboy and Cherry as they go to get some popcorn?
7. What happened to Johnny? What part was the worst?
8. What does Cherry tell Ponyboy that has him reflecting?

Chapter 3

1. Name two differences between the Greasers and the Socs.
2. What story does Ponyboy tell Cherry Valance and why does he consider it personal?
3. *“It seemed funny to me that the sunset she saw from her patio and the one I saw from the back steps was the same one.”* Why is this quote significant?
4. Why do you think Cherry said she could fall in love with Dally?
5. The boys are discussing life and Ponyboy is frustrated that life isn’t fair. Name 3 Greasers who have had rough breaks.
6. Why is Johnny so nervous when the Mustang pulls up?
7. What does Cherry explain to Ponyboy as the reason why they can’t be friends?
8. Why does Ponyboy run away?

Chapter 4

1. Explain the physical limitations of the city – the East versus the West side. What marks them different?
2. What does the Soc mean by ‘giving Ponyboy a bath’ ?
3. Why did Randy and Bob want to beat up Ponyboy and Johnnt?
4. What happens in the vacant lot? Elaborate on Johnny’s role.
5. What three things did the boys think they needed after they calmed down?
6. Based on your knowledge of Dally, explain why Ponyboy and Johnny are going to him for help.
7. What is the plan? Where are the boys headed and how are they getting there?

Chapter 5

1. What signal do the boys use to communicate and where did it originate?
2. Why does Ponyboy resist so strongly when Johnny suggests cutting their hair?
3. Why do you think Johnny brought a copy of *Gone with the Wind*? Of what use will it be to the boys?
4. Why did Johnny say that Dally reminded him of the Southern Gentleman in “Gone with the Wind”?
5. Why has Dally never been a favourite of Ponyboy’s?
6. What is the meaning of the poem “*Nothing gold can stay*” that Ponyboy recites? What two things are compared in the poem?
7. Who shows up that Ponyboy is elated to see? What news does he bring about the city?
8. Who has become a spy for the Greasers?
9. Where were the Greasers and Socs going to have it out? What would happen if the Greasers won the fight? What if the Socs won?

Chapter 6

1. Who else besides Dally had said before “Next time you want a broad, pick up your own kind”?
2. Outline the similarities between Cherry and Ponyboy. What do they have in common?
3. What does Johnny decide to do after his fifth barbeque sandwich? How does Dally feel about this idea?
4. The chapter contains 2 clues that Dally greatly cares for Johnny. Describe 2 things that show how concerned Dally is.
5. What do the boys see when they drive up to the church and how did the disaster start?
6. Describe Ponyboy’s and Johnny’s unique attitude inside the church.
7. What happened to Johnny after Ponyboy made it out of the church?
8. When did Ponyboy realize that Darry loved him? Use an example to prove how you know this.

Chapter 7

1. Why were there reporters in the waiting room?
2. What is going to happen to Johnny?
3. Why did Darry never lock the front door to the house and what does this say about the gang?
4. What does the newspaper article claim?
5. Describe Ponyboy’s dream.
6. Based on what you know about Sodapop, how is he reacting to the news about Sandy?
7. Ponyboy runs into Randy, who wants to talk to him. How does he know Randy?
8. Why do you think Randy wants to talk to Ponyboy specifically?
9. What did Cherry Valance mean by “*things are rough all over*”?
10. Describe a similarity between Randy and Ponyboy.

Chapter 8

1. What does Ponyboy mean by “*Southern Gentlemen had nothing on Johnny Cade*”?
2. What is Johnny’s condition and how does he feel about it?
3. Why do you think Johnny wants another copy of Gone with the Wind?
4. Describe your interpretation of Johnny’s mother.
5. Why do you think Two-Bit agreed to give Dally his switchblade? What do you think Dally will use it for?
6. What was it about Darry that made him different from the rest of the gang? What was it that kept Darry “in his place” so to speak?
7. Is Ponyboy sick? Why isn’t he feeling well?
8. Elaborate on the two sides of Bob that Cherry explains.
9. Compare Bob to Dally. What do they both have that Cherry finds attractive?
10. Ponyboy reminds Cherry that the sun sets the same on the East and the West side. What is he reinforcing when he tells her this?

Chapter 9

1. What is the event that everyone is sprucing up for? How is Johnny feeling about this fight?
2. What is the energy as they are all walking down together?
3. Who is Tim Shepherd and why is his group different from the Greasers?
4. Who steps up to take Darry first? How does Darry know him?
5. Who shows up, refusing to be excluded from the rumble?
6. How did he manage to get out of the hospital?
7. What is the outcome of the rumble?
8. Where does Dally drag Ponyboy immediately after the fight?
9. What is Dally really worried about? Explain his feelings.
10. What happens at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 10

1. What did Johnny mean by “Stay gold, Ponyboy”? Refer back to the poem in Chapter 5.
2. What do they mean by Dally having a “breaking point”?
3. What happens to Dally as he runs into a vacant lot?
4. Explain the double meaning behind Soda’s words “there’s nothing we can do now.”
5. How does Ponyboy’s dreaming, or lying to himself, finally work in this chapter?
6. Why does Johnny collapse? Make sure to distinguish between the physical stressors and the emotional ones.
7. Compare Johnny’s death with Dally’s death. Which one of them was most like the Southern Gentlemen in *Gone with the Wind*?

Chapter 11

1. Describe Ponyboy’s interpretation of Bob based on his yearbook picture.
2. Explain why Pony would rather have anyone’s hate than their pity.
3. Why do you think Ponyboy says “Johnny didn’t have anything to do with Bob’s getting killed”?
4. What do you think of Ponyboy as a narrator? Does he do an accurate job of providing a description?
5. Why can’t Ponyboy talk about Johnny?

Chapter 12

1. What was the doctor’s role in the hearing that Darry, Soda, Johnny, Cherry and Randy attend?
2. How come Ponyboy is starting to do badly in school?
3. How does the incident at the store during lunch show that Ponyboy has changed?
4. What does he do at the end that shows that he hasn’t changed as much as you think?
5. What happens to Soda to set him off?
6. What does Soda tell Darry and Ponyboy that makes them stop and think?
7. Johnny left Ponyboy a note before he died. What was his message to Ponyboy?
8. Every author has a purpose. Outline two MESSAGES that you took away from this book. Use a table like this one to explain your ideas.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BIG IDEAS | EVIDENCE FROM TEXT |

**Final Analysis:**

Analyze the use of one of the following themes throughout the novel.

* Appearances
* Loyalty
* Classes in society (Rich versus Poor)

1 page in length

Use 3 examples from the book that underline the theme.