

**Grade 8 English**  
**The Outsiders: Chapter Questions**

**Chapter One**

1. Describe each of the characters and their relationship with one another.
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. Do you think Darry loves Ponyboy? Why does he treat Ponyboy the way he does?
7. 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**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:  
incredulous p. 24, vaguely p.33, nonchalantly p. 25.

1. Who is the fuzz? (p. 20)
2. Are the names Ponyboy and Sodapop nicknames? Explain.
3. Who are Cherry and Marcia?
4. Why doesn't Ponyboy like referring to Sodapop as a dropout?
5. What is "a weed" slang for in 1967?
6. Why does Dally look sick when he sees Johnny?
7. What literary device does the author use to describe Johnny's mugging (p. 31-34)?

**Chapter Three**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:  
aloof p. 38, impersonally p. 38, ornery p. 39, resignedly p. 44

1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the Greasers?
2. When and how did Pony's parents die?
3. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?
4. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?
5. At the end of the chapter, how does the author foreshadow that bad things are to come?

**Chapter Four**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:  
ruefully p. 60, hermit p. 65, premonition p. 67

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.

## **Chapter Five**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:

reluctantly p. 71, sullen p. 73, eluded p. 78, imploringly p. 72, gallant p. 76, indignant p. 80

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 Pony realize he doesn't like Dally? Can you explain what he means by this?
4. Examine Robert Frost's poem, Nothing Gold can Stay. What do you think the poem is saying? How might this apply to the characters in the novel?
5. What does Pony mean when he says he drinks Pepsi's like a fiend (p.78)?
6. What's a 'heater'? Why does Dally have one?
7. Why are the Socs and the greasers going to fight in the vacant lot?
8. Who's the spy for the greasers? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

## **Chapter Six**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:

bewildered p. 88

1. Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in?
2. What "other side" of Dallas is revealed in this chapter?
3. What's your own definition of a hero? Do the three boys prove themselves to be heroes, according to your definition? Explain.
4. Why do you think Johnny wasn't scared, despite the obvious danger (p. 92)?

## **Chapter Seven**

1. Explain what Pony means when he says Soda "reminds me of a colt" (p. 101).
2. What condition is Johnny in after the fire?
3. Why would being crippled be worse for Johnny than someone else?
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)?

## **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. If Darry didn't have Soda and Pony, why would he be a Soc?
4. What does Cherry mean when she says Bob "wasn't just anyone" (p.129)?

## **Chapter Nine**

1. On the bottom of p.133, when Pony asks what kind of a world it is, what comment is he making about how society judges people?
2. Why do the boys fight? Why is Pony different?
3. What is the difference between Tim Sheppard's gang and Ponyboy's? Explain how Pony feels this difference might give his group the upper hand?
4. What do you think Johnny's last words to Pony mean?

## **Chapter Ten**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:  
indignantly p.159

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. Why do you think Dally would have wanted to die?

## **Chapter Eleven**

Vocabulary - Find the meaning for the following words in this chapter:  
acquitted p.168

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)?

## **Chapter Twelve**

1. What 'circumstances' do 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?
3. How is this a dramatic change from the Ponyboy we have seen up until this point?
4. What does Darry mean when he says, "you don't just stop living because you lose someone"?
5. How do we know Sandy didn't love Soda as much as he loved her?
6. Explain how Darry and Ponyboy play tug of war with Soda.
7. What do we learn was so special about Johnny (p.178)?
8. What does Ponyboy end up doing for his English assignment?