

The Outsiders Study Guide

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Chapter 1

Name _____

1. Use the following t-chart to list the character traits of Greasers and Socs. Be sure to use **SPECIFIC WORDS AND PHRASES** from the novel.

| Greasers | Socs |
|----------|------|
| | |

2. Explain the relationship between the Greasers and Socs.
3. Using the following charts, describe the characters listed in the boxes below. You should explain what they look like, how they act, what their reputations are, etc. Be sure to use **SPECIFIC WORDS AND PHRASES** from the novel.

| |
|------------------------|
| Ponyboy |
| Darry |
| Sodapop |
| Steve Randle |
| Two-Bit Mathews |
| Dallas Winston (Dally) |
| Johnny Cade |

4. What is the difference between "tough" and "tuff"?
5. Do YOU think that Darry loves Pony? Explain your answer.

Chapter 2

1. Johnny acts very out of character during this chapter. Use the following T-chart to contrast Johnny's usual behavior with his actions in Chapter 2.

| Johnny's usual character | Johnny's Actions in Chapter 2 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | |

2. What is a Greaser's definition of friendship? (p. 26)
3. What is a Greaser's definition of a fair fight? (p. 29)
4. According to Two-Bit, why don't Socs fight fair? (p. 29)
5. What two rules do all Greasers follow? (p. 29)
6. List THREE conflicts that occur in the chapter and describe them.

| |
|-----------------------|
| Type of Conflict: |
| Description of Event: |

| |
|-----------------------|
| Type of Conflict: |
| Description of Event: |

| |
|-----------------------|
| Type of Conflict: |
| Description of Event: |

Chapter 3

1. In this chapter it becomes clear that many of the characters have dreams they know will probably never come true. Some are very obvious, some you need to think about because they are implied rather than stated. For each of the characters listed below, explain what their dreams are. Then explain why their dreams will never come true.

Pony's Dream

Why it won't come true:

Cherry's Dream

Why it won't come true:

Soda's Dream

Why it won't come true:

Dally's Dream

Why it won't come true:

2. What request does Cherry make to Ponyboy? Are you surprised by this? Explain. (pp. 45-46)
3. Why does Darry strike Ponyboy? Do you think he means to? Explain. (pp. 49-50)
4. The blue Mustang is a symbol (an object that represents one or more ideas). What do you think the blue Mustang symbolizes? Explain.

Chapter 4

1. If you were Johnny and Pony's lawyer, how would you defend them in a court of law? (Give TWO reasons for your defense).
 - A.
 - B.
2. The boys immediately turn to Dally for help. Why is he the logical choice?
3. The theme of friendship is very important to this chapter. List 3 things from this chapter that are part of this theme:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
4. List as many ways as you can that Dally helps the Pony and Johnny in this chapter.

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Chapter 5

1. Fill in the following T-diagram using specific details from the novel:

| Pony's life as a greaser in the city | Pony's life at Jay Mountain |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | |

2. Write a short response contrasting the life that Ponyboy leads as a Greaser and the life that he is now living on Jay Mountain.

3. Put yourself if Pony's place. How would you feel about your situation. **EXPLAIN IN DETAIL!**

4. Answer the following questions to explain why appearance is very important in this chapter.

A. How does their appearance change?

B. How do Ponyboy and Johnny feel about this change?

C. How will others view them now that they have changed appearance?

D. If Pony attended Ernie Davis, would other students change their perceptions of him? Explain.

5. What gift does Johnny bring Pony? Why does Johnny enjoy this gift as much or more than Pony?

6. What does the poem on page 77 mean? (Hint: think about the title)

7. Briefly describe what life is now like in the city for the Greasers and the Socs. USE SPECIFIC DETAILS FROM THE NOVEL!

Chapter 6

The following quotes from the chapter are very important. They give the reader a better understanding of the characters referred to by the quotation. Explain why the quotations are important. What do they tell you about the characters being mentioned? How do they improve your understanding? **TAKE YOUR TIME AND BE VERY, VERY THOROUGH WITH YOUR ANSWERS!**

1. " 'She said she felt that the whole mess was her fault, which it is, and that she's keep up with what was comin' off with the Socs in the rumble and would testify that the Socs were drunk and looking for a fight and that you fought back in self-defense.' " (pp. 85-86).
2. " 'I said we're goin' back to turn ourselves in...' " (p. 87).
3. " 'Oh, blast it, Johnny'—he pushed his white-blond hair back out of his eyes-'you get hardened in jail. I don't want that to happen to you. Like it happened to me...' " (pp. 89-90).
4. "I caught one quick look at his face; it was red-marked from falling embers and sweat-streaked, but he grinned at me. He wasn't scared either. That was the only time I can think of when I saw him without that defeated, suspicious look in his eyes. He looked like he was having the time of his life" (p. 92).

5. " 'I swear, you three are the bravest kids I've ever seen in a long time. First you and the black-haired kid climbing in that window, and then the tough-looking kid going back in to save him. Mrs. O'Briant and I think you were sent straight from heaven. Or are you just professional heroes or something?' " (95)

6. "I let go of Soda and stood there for a minute. Darry didn't like me... he had driven me away that night... he had hit me... Darry hollered at me all the time... he didn't give a hang about me.. . Suddenly I realized, horrified that Darry was crying" (p. 98).

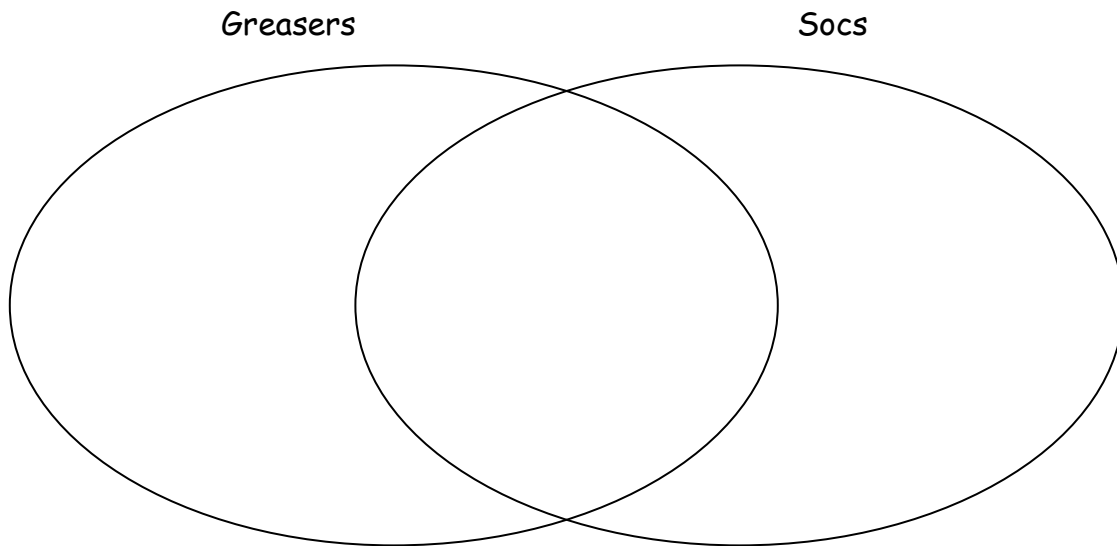
7. "I had taken the long way around, but I was finally home. To stay" (p. 99).

Now... go back to chapter 4 for a minute... and explain the foreshadowing

8. "I figured I couldn't get into any worse trouble than murder" (p. 65).

Chapter 7

1. One of the major topics of chapter 7 is that "things are rough all over." Using the Venn diagram below, list the following:
 - A. things that are rough for the Greasers
 - B. things that are rough for the Socs
 - C. things that are rough for both the Greasers and the Socs



2. Using the information from the above graphic organizer, write a short response explaining how "things are rough all over."

Chapter 8

1. Describe Johnny's attitude towards death (pp. 121-122).
2. Put yourself in Johnny's place. If you knew that you were going to die in the near future HOW WOULD YOU FEEL? WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO DO WITH THE TIME THAT YOU HAD LEFT?

3. Compare Johnny's feeling for his family before he is in the hospital to his feelings while he is in the hospital.

| Before Accident | After Hospitalization |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | |

4. Why do you think that his feelings about his parents change?
5. What does Dally ask Two-Bit for? What do you think that he will do with it? Explain thoroughly (p. 125).
5. How does Pony feel about Cherry Valance right now? Use a specific example from the book to support your opinion (pp. 127-130).

Chapter 9

1. Even though Pony does not want to be a greaser and does not like many of the things that greasers do, the rumble allows him to be proud to be a greaser. Explain this contradiction (pp. 132-133).
2. How do the boys act before the rumble? Give specific examples. Explain why they act this way (pp. 131-137).
3. Pony asks everyone in the gang why they like to fight. Fill in the chart below using this information (pp. 133-137).

| |
|---------|
| Soda |
| Steve |
| Darry |
| Two-Bit |
| Pony |

4. Compare the Greasers and the Socs who show up at the rumble (how many, appearance, attitudes, etc.) (pp. 138-142).
5. What are the rules of the rumble? (pp. 140-142).

6. Why does Darry hate Paul Holden so much? (p. 142).

7. List at least 5 things that happen in the rumble.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

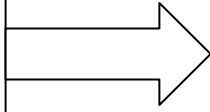
8. Write a short response that summarizes the rumble.

9. What are Johnny's last words? What do you think they mean?

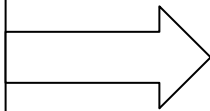
Chapters 10-12

1. For each of the following causes, list several effects that result from the incident.

Dallas Winston watches Johnny Cade die at the age of 16 years old due to severe injuries that he sustained while saving a group of school children who were trapped in a burning church.



Ponyboy cannot accept the fact that his best friend, Johnny Cade, has died and that his buddy, Dally Winston, was gunned down by the police.



Sodapop Curtis is constantly dragged into the middle of arguments between his brothers, Pony and Darry.



2. There is evidence that the relationship between Pony and Darry is improving. Give at least TWO specific examples from these three chapters that support this idea.

3. The judge makes a decision to let the Curtis family stay together. If you were that judge, would you have removed Pony and placed him in foster care or would you have let them stay together? Explain your decision.

4. The letter that Johnny writes to Pony has a very strong impact on him? How does it change Pony's attitude and behavior?

5. Go back to page 77 and reread the poem there. How does this poem reflect/explain/symbolize Johnny's short life? Use specific words and phrases in your analysis.

6. Now that you are done reading the novel, would you recommend the book to others? Why or why not?