

THE OUTSIDERS

COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 7, 8, 9

CHAPTER 7

1. Describe what Soda is doing while the police are trying to interview Ponyboy.

He is entertaining everyone at the police station, joking around, interviewing the nurses, mimicking the TV reporters and keeping them all in stitches.

2. What is the extent of Johnny's injuries? How are the boys able to get the doctor to tell them of Johnny's prognosis?

Johnny is in critical condition with a broken back, severe shock, and third-degree burns; they tell him that they are the only real family he has

3. What does Ponyboy mean when he says, "If? Please, no, I thought. Please not if."

The doctors had said that Johnny might not live. He didn't want to hear what would happen if he lived.

4. Explain the reference to chocolate cake.

The boys loved to eat chocolate cake for breakfast, and their parents had never let them have it

5. Why do the Curtis boys always leave their door unlocked?

It is a stopping place for all their friends if they need a place to sleep or get away from someone.

6. What does the newspaper say about the "heroes"? What does Two-Bit have to say about the wording the reporter chose?

The headlines read, Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes. Two-Bit says they didn't just turn heroes—they were heroes from the beginning. The whole page was covered with stories about them—the fight, the murder, the church burning, the Socs being drunk, and their pictures were even there. The article talked about how they risked their lives to save the kids. One of the Socs even said it was their fault about the murder and that the greasers only fought back in self-defense.

7. Recount the story of Pony's recurring dream.

He dreamt of his parents' funeral and woke up night after night sweating and screaming. The doctor chalked it up to too much imagination

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

#- _____

THE OUTSIDERS

COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 7, 8, 9

8. What has happened to Soda's girlfriend, Sandy? Why?

She has gone to live with her grandmother in Florida because she is pregnant.

9. To what is Pony referring when he says, "...it's time for those guys from the state to come by and check up on us."

The social workers check up on the boys to be sure they are staying out of trouble and living in a decent environment. If not, they have the authority to take Ponyboy out of the home.

10. Briefly describe the conversation between Randy and Ponyboy.

Answers will vary. Possible answers: Randy tells Pony that he would have let the kids die in the fire. He tells him that he is not going to show at the rumble that night. He is sick of all this trouble between the Socs and the greasers, and that Bob was a good guy and a real person. He says that Bob was spoiled and his parents never told him —No. // He tells Pony that even if they beat the Socs at the rumble, they couldn't win—they would always be where they are: at the bottom. Pony learned that Randy, the Soc, is just a guy.

11. From their discussion, what did you learn about the privileged class to which the Socs belong? How do you think some people come to feel entitlement?

They can do just about anything they want and because they have money and dress well, a lot of what they do is overlooked. Answers will vary.

12. Randy says, "You get a little money and the whole world hates you." Pony replies, "No, you hate the whole world." Which of these statements, in your opinion, is true? Explain your answer.

Answers will vary.

Chapter 8

1. What do you think the doctor means when he says to the nurse, "Let them go in. He's been asking for them. It can't hurt now"?

He means that Johnny is going to die, so they might as well let his friends in to see him. They can't hurt anything now.

2. Why does Johnny really want to live, even though he has thought of suicide in the past, and he would never be able to walk again?

He is too young to go now. He hasn't seen and done everything.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

PERIOD: _____

#- _____

THE OUTSIDERS

COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 7, 8, 9

3. When the nurse announces to Johnny that his mother is there to see him, how does he react? When Two-Bit and Ponyboy see Johnny's mother, what happens? How do they react?

He doesn't want to see her. He is angry at her and feels that all she would want anyway would be to tell him how much trouble he is causing her.

When she gives them a look of hatred and begins to blame them for all the trouble, they yell back at her, saying, —No wonder he hates your guts. // They almost got into a yelling match, but Ponyboy moves Two-Bit away from her and they leave.

4. When Dally asks Two-Bit about his "fancy black-handled switch", what do you think was his reason for asking? Why do you think Two-Bit hands it over to him "without hesitation"?

Answers will vary. He may be planning to go to the rumble or to use it to threaten his way out of the hospital; he hands it over, because he trusts him and he feels that if he needs a blade enough to ask for it, that is all he needs.

5. Pony had a sick feeling in his stomach about the rumble that night. Infer what you think he was worried about.

Answers will vary. He was probably afraid that they would lose, since all of their gang couldn't be there.

6. Cherry tells Ponyboy about the kind of person Bob "really" was. How does she describe him?

She says that he was Randy's best friend since grade school. He could be sweet and friendly sometimes. But when he got drunk he became mean. He had something special about him that made people follow him. He was a little better than the crowd.

Chapter 9

1. How do the boys show their excitement about the rumble when they are at the Curtis house getting ready to head out?

They get all spruced up, put on extra hair oil, do flips off the porch and no-hands cartwheels, screech like Indians, chant greaser... greaser... greaser... The excitement was contagious.

2. Pony thinks the only good reason to fight is...?

Self-defense

3. Pony believes that he and Darry are both going to "get somewhere." What does he mean by that? Do you believe they have any choice in the matter? Discuss in detail.

They are not going to settle for being poor and uneducated without the money they need to live a —normal // life. They definitely have a choice in the matter, by finishing school and following the laws.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ PERIOD: _____ #- _____

THE OUTSIDERS

COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 7, 8, 9

4. Why, according to Ponyboy, do people usually think that any trouble is the fault of the greasers and not the Socs? In your opinion, is that a true assumption?

They are always well-dressed and clean. The impression they give off is one of law-abiding citizens, while in reality they are sneaky troublemakers and no better than the greasers. Opinions will vary.

5. What are the rules for the rumble?

No blades or chains; nothing but fists and the first to run lose.

6. Who actually steps up to start the rumble? Who is his opponent and how does it happen that he is able to take the first swing? What is ironic about these two boys fighting against each other?

Darry stepped forward and said, —I'll take on anyone. // His former buddy, Paul, stepped up to him, and when Darry was distracted, Paul threw the first punch. It was significant because they had grown up together and used to be close friends.

7. Which side wins the rumble? What determines the winner?

The greasers win when the Socs run off.

8. Where do the boys go as soon as the rumble ends? Convey what happens as they are on their way in Buck's car. How do they manage to get let off by the police?

To the hospital to see Johnny. The cop pull them over and they tell him that Pony is hurt and needs to get to the hospital right away. The cop escorts them.

9. What were Johnny's last words to Ponyboy? What do you think he meant?

—Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold.... // He was referring to the poem, —Nothing Gold Can Stay// by Robert Frost, the poem presented in Chapter Five. Answers will vary. He meant that Pony was a good kid and that he needed to be sure to do everything in his power to stay that way—don't let this lifestyle ruin you.