

THE OUTSIDERS

COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 1-3

CHAPTER 1

2. WHY DOES PONYBOY LIKE TO GO TO THE MOVIES ALONE?

He likes to watch movies undisturbed so he can get into them and live them with the actors. He feels it's like having someone read over your shoulder when someone goes with you to the movies. Besides no one in his crowd likes books and movies the way he does.

3. WHAT HAPPENS TO PONY ON THE WAY HOME FROM THE MOVIES?

The Socs follow him, threatening to cut off his hair and harm him in other ways.

4. HOW DOES PONY FEEL BEING FOLLOWED? WHAT DETAILS TELL YOU HOW HE FEELS?

Really scared, wondering if he could make a break for it because he remembered how Johnny looked after he was jumped by the Socs. Sweating but cold, clammy palms, looked for a stick or a pop bottle to bust and use as a weapon; goes wild, screaming for Soda or Darry, biting the hand over his mouth. The greasers come to rescue him.

5. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PARENTS OF THE NARRATOR?

They were killed in an automobile accident eight months earlier.

6. HOW DOES PONY FEEL ABOUT HIS NAME?

Ponyboy likes his name even though people usually do not think it is his real name.

7. WHY IS PONY SO RELUCTANT TO TELL DARRY HOW HE REALLY FEELS AFTER THE SOCS GET HIM?

Answers will vary

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8. WHO ARE SODA AND STEVE? WHERE DO THEY WORK?

Soda is his brother and Steve is Soda's best friend; at the DX gas station

9. HOW DID TWO-BIT GET HIS NICKNAME? WHAT IS HIS NAME?

He is a wisecracker who always has to get in his two-bits; Keith

10. WHY IS DALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF THE GUYS?

He spent three years on the wild side of New York and was arrested when he was ten; hates the world; tougher, meaner, colder, and bitter

11. WHY DOES DARRY WORK SO HARD?

He is trying to keep his family together since the death of their parents, and is somewhat resentful.

12. WHAT DOES SODA TELL PONY ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR SANDY?

He says he wants to marry her after she gets out of school and he gets a better job.

13. DESCRIBE PONY, SODA, AND DARRY'S RELATIONSHIP?

Ponyboy loves Soda more than anyone in the world—idolizes him; Pony isn't really close to Darry, but looks up to him and respects him, somewhat out of fear. **Sodapop** is not afraid of Darry—even teases him and tells him what to do. He doesn't think of Ponyboy as a kid and likes to hang around him. **Darry** is rough on Pony; treats him like a parent would, and never sees anything he does as good enough. He is much easier on Soda, overlooking his mistakes and bad choices.

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CHAPTER 2

1. HOW DO THE BOYS GET INTO THE NIGHTLY DOUBLE? WHY?

Sneaked in over the back fence; just to break the law and see if they could get away with it

2. WHY DOES DALLY USE BAD LANGUAGE TOWARDS THE GIRLS AT THE MOVIES?

Possible answers: trying to make an impression on them; just a mean-type person; feels inferior so is trying to bolster himself; doesn't know of any other way to talk to girls when he doesn't know them and wants to; habit.

3. HOW DO THE GIRLS RESPOND TO DALLY? WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU ABOUT THEIR CHARACTER?

They stand up to him and tell him to stop, trying to be at least polite at first; Cherry throws her Coke in his face to —cool him off.|| They are very self-assured and confident, possibly

4. WHY IS PONY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH DALLY'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS THE GIRLS?

He doesn't treat people like that, even though he is a greaser and the girls are Socs. That's not his kind of kicks.

5. EXPLAIN WHY THE GIRLS ARE OKAY WITH PONY AND JOHNNY?

Dally is vulgar and crude, while Johnny and Pony are easy to talk to and sweet, can be trusted not to expect anything from them, protective, not mean

6. WHY ARE THE GIRLS ALONE AND WITHOUT A CAR?

They came to the movies with their boyfriends, but walked out on them when they found out the boys had booze. The boys got angry and left.

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7. WHAT DOES TWO-BIT DO THAT SCARES JOHNNY AND PONY?

He puts a strong hand on Johnny and Pony's shoulders and says, —Okay, greasers, you've had it.|| They get spooked, thinking it was really a Soc or a bunch of Socs who had come to tear them apart. Johnny is especially scared because the Socs had beat him to a pulp in the past and he is now deathly afraid of them.

8. WHAT RULE DO THE GREASERS FOLLOW BESIDES "STICK TOGETHER"? HOW DO YOU THINK THAT CAME TO BE?

Don't get caught.|| They had learned to be like a family to each other, and these were some of the ways they protected each other.

9. DESCRIBE JOHNNY'S ATTACK? WHY WAS IT SO TRAUMATIC TO HIM?

Mustang pulled up beside the lot, four Socs got out, one with a lot of rings had cut up his face. They had scared and threatened him. (Johnny's face was cut up, bruised and swollen, and he had a gash from his temple to his cheekbone. He never walked alone again and now carries a 6-inch blade.)

CHAPTER 3

1. WHAT DOES CHERRY TELL PONYBOY ABOUT THE SOCS?

Greasers have a different set of values and are emotional while Socs are sophisticated. Socs will say they like things they really don't like just to be cool. Socs are always going and going; can't be satisfied; don't let their real selves show through. They feel —too violently.||

2. RELATE THE STORY OF MICKEY MOUSE AND SODA. WHY DO YOU THINK IT WAS INCLUDED IN THE NOVEL?

Soda had a horse that wasn't his. Soda worked at the stables where he was boarded. Pony even thought soda and Mickey Mouse looked and acted alike. He came when Soda called him, but not for anyone else. The horse loved Soda and he loved the horse. Mickey Mouse was a mean horse and was always kicking other horses and

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getting into trouble. One day the horse was sold and Soda had cried all night. Soda had never wanted anything but that horse, and now he was gone.... *Reasons it was included in the novel will vary*

3. EXPLAIN THE REFERENCE TO THE WATCHING THE SUNSET, WHY IS IT AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE BUILDUP OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHERRY VALANCE AND PONYBOY?

Cherry and Ponyboy both watched the sunset, and since they had that in common, they realized that there were probably many things they had in common, even though they came from different backgrounds. They needed to have things in common in order to bond.

4. WHEN THE BLUE MUSTANG ROLLS UP, WHAT ARE ITS OCCUPANTS HOPING TO DO? WHAT DO THE GREASERS THINK THEY WANT?

get the girls to go home with them; to start a fight

5. GIVE YOUR OPINION OF CHERRY SAYING, "...IF I SEE YOU IN THE HALL AT SCHOOL OR SOMEPLACE AND DON'T SAY HI, WELL, IT'S NOT PERSONAL..." EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

Answers are personal and will vary, but should include an explanation of the students' point of view

6. WHAT DO PONY AND JOHNNY DO INSTEAD OF GOING HOME AFTER THE MOVIES, AND WHAT IS THE RESULT?

go to the vacant lot where they hang out; they fall asleep and wake up too late so Pony gets home late and Darry gets really mad at him

7. WHY DOESN'T DARRY CALL THE POLICE WHEN PONYBOY DOESN'T ARRIVE HOME UNTIL 2:00 A.M.?

He doesn't want trouble. If there is trouble, Ponyboy, Soda, and Darry might be split up and Soda and Pony "thrown in a boys' home so quick it'd make your head spin."

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8. WHY DO PONYBOY AND JOHNNY RUN AWAY?

Darry slapped Ponyboy and nobody in his family had ever done that before.

9. WHY DOES JOHNNY SAY HE LIKES IT BETTER WHEN HIS FATHER IS HITTING HIM?

At least then he knows that his parents know he is alive.

10. PARAPHRASE WHY DARRY SEEMS LIKE SUCH AN ANGRY PERSON.

He has had to take on too much responsibility for a person his age since his parents were killed. He resents having to take on the role of parent to his brothers.