

8th Grade English: The Outsiders Study Guide

Chapter 1

1. From what building is Ponyboy coming out when the book opens?
2. Describe Ponyboy and his brothers. Be sure to include their ages and how they are different. Which brother is Pony's favorite?
3. What are the two gangs in the book and to which does Pony belong? How does one identify a "Soc" or a "Greaser"?
4. What happened to Pony's parents? Who raises him now?
5. Who trails Pony home? What do they try to do to him? Who saves him? Describe this person.
6. Describe the following gang members: Steve Randle, Two-Bit Matthews, Dally, Johnny.
7. Why does Pony think Darry does not like him? Who always takes up for Pony?
8. What did Darry have to give up in order to provide for the boys? Soda reminds Pony that Darry loves him. Does Pony believe it?

Chapter 2

9. What is the Dingo? How do Pony, Johnny, and Dally get into the Nightly Double?
10. What does Dally start doing with the two Soc girls in front of them? What are their names? What does Cherry do when Dally hands her a Coke?
11. Who is looking for Dally? Why? Who tells Pony, Johnny, and Dally that info?
12. What happened to Johnny four months ago? As a result, what does Johnny carry now?
13. What insight does Cherry share with Pony about the Socs? What does she mean when she says "things are rough all over"? Does Pony believe her?

Chapter 3

14. What was the name of Soda's horse, and what happened to him? How does Soda react?
15. What does Pony realize about the sunset that ties him and Cherry together? What does it say about two individuals who seem so different?
16. How does Darry react when Pony comes in late? What does Pony do in response?
17. What does Johnny mean when he says he likes it better "when the old man's hittin' me"? Where do the boys decide to go before Pony goes home?

Chapter 4

18. Who surrounds Pony and Johnny in the park? What does Bob do to Pony before he blacks out? How is Pony saved?
19. Where do Pony and Johnny find Dally? What does Dally provide them with?

20. How do Pony and Johnny get to Windrixville? Where do Pony and Johnny hide on Jay Mountain?

Chapter 5

21. What do Pony and Johnny have to do to their hair? How do Pony and Johnny kill time over the next four or five days?

22. What is the poem Pony quotes? What is the point of the poem?

23. What does Dally say is going to happen tomorrow night? What are the terms of this event? Who is the spy for the Greasers that assures them the terms will be kept?

Chapter 6

24. Why is Cherry helping the Greasers? What is she willing to testify in court about Bob's killing?

25. What does Johnny decide he is going to do? Why? Why does Dally not want Johnny to spend time in jail?

26. What is happening to the church as they pull up? Who else is there?

27. What does Pony notice about Johnny as they run into the church to rescue the children?

28. What injuries do Dally and Johnny have?

29. What does Pony realize about Darry when he sees him? What has been Darry's silent fear all along?

Chapter 7

30. Is Johnny expected to live? How does Pony react?

31. Why do the Curtis brothers never keep the front door locked at night?

32. What sport do we learn that Pony is quite good at?

33. What possibility for Soda and Pony does the newspaper article mention?

34. Why does Soda's girlfriend Sandy have to go live with her grandparents in Florida?

35. What does Randy tell Pony that Bob wanted from his parents or from anyone? Why?

36. Why is Randy not going to the rumble? What does Pony realize about Randy and about Socs in general?

Chapter 8

37. What does he mean when he says "Sixteen years ain't long enough"? Why does he not want to see his mother?

38. Why does Two-Bit say that Darry would have been a Soc if it hadn't been for them?

39. Why does Cherry refuse to go see Johnny? What made Bob special, according to Cherry? How does Pony react to her? What comments cause them to part as friends?

Chapter 9

40. Why do each of the guys like to fight according to Pony's survey? Why does Pony fight?

41. Who is going to start the rumble and why?
42. Why were most of the Greasers worried about the “no weapons” rule?
43. Who stands up to take Darry on? Why does this stun Pony and Soda?
44. Where does Dally take Pony after the Greasers win the rumble? According to Dally, why did Johnny get hurt?
45. What does Johnny tell Pony before he dies? What does this mean?

Chapter 10

46. Of what delusion does Pony convince himself at first?
47. Why can't Dally take the fact that Johnny is dead, according to Pony?
48. When Darry answers the phone, what do they learn about Dally? Where do they meet him?
49. What happens to Dally when he pulls out the unloaded gun before the police? What does Pony realize Dally wanted all along? How did Dally die, according to Pony?
50. What did Johnny leave for Pony before he died?

Chapter 11

51. Who comes to see Pony at home? Is he going to tell the truth at the hearing?
52. Pony begins saying he killed Bob, not Johnny. Why do you think he was so mixed up?
53. What does Darry call Pony at the end of the chapter? What does this show about their relationship?

Chapter 12

54. What does Pony's English teacher offer to let him do to be able to pass the class with a C?
55. How does Pony react to the Socs who approach him? Why does this bother Two-Bit? Who does Pony begin reacting like in his thoughts?
56. When Pony yells back at Darry, what does Darry tell Pony about living and losing someone you love?
57. Why had Soda been so upset? What does Darry tell Pony about Soda's connection to Sandy?
58. What do Darry and Pony realize about Soda in regard to their fighting? What do they promise Soda?
59. What does he find in Johnny's copy of *Gone with the Wind*? What does Johnny ask Pony to tell Dally?
60. What does Pony decided to write his composition about? How does it begin? Why is this important?