

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Reading Comprehension Guide Chapters 7-12

Directions: After reading each chapter, answer the following questions.

Chapter 7

1. What would Johnny's life be like if he lived and was paralyzed?

2. Explain the headline, "Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes."

3. On page 109, Pony tells us that Steve once called Darry "all brawn and no brain." What does this mean and why was Darry so upset about it?

4. The story of Pony's nightmare on the night of his parent's funeral can be called extra

- a. climax
- b. characterization
- c. exposition
- d. rising action

5. Why does Sandy move to Florida?

6. What does "no jazz before the rumble" mean?

7. According to Randy, who is to blame for Bob's problems and why? How does this make Pony remember Cherry Valance saying "things are rough all over?"

Chapter 8

8. Johnny doesn't want to see his mother because
- a. he is embarrassed to be in trouble again
 - b. he doesn't want to hear her tell him how much trouble he is
 - c. he doesn't realize how bad his condition actually is
 - d. he needs to rest and falls asleep
9. Who does Pony convince not to tell Darry that he is sick?
- a. Soda
 - b. Dally
 - c. Johnny
 - d. Two-Bit
10. Why can't Cherry go see Johnny?

11. Why does Pony end Chapter 8 by saying that Cherry "had green eyes?"

Chapter 9

12. Why do the Greasers get "spruced up" for rumbles?

13. How does Soda convince Darry to let Pony fight in the rumble?

14. What clue were we given in Chapter 8 that Dally would be at the rumble?

15. How does Dally get rid of the cops when he gets pulled over for speeding?

16. What is surprising about the doctor's response of "you can see him, but it's because you're his friends, not because of that knife" when Dally threatens him? Why is this surprising?

17. What is significant about Johnny's last words, "Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold?"

Chapter 10

18. What is significant about Dally's lines, "I been carryin' a heater. It ain't loaded but it sure does help a bluff?"

19. Taking into consideration Dally's entire existence, why does Pony say that Johnny was right, that he "died gallant?"

20. Explain the lines, "and the ground rose up to meet me very suddenly."

21. Explain why Pony feels bad that he can't talk to Darry when he wakes up. How is this significant considering Pony's feeling about their relationship at the beginning of the novel?

Chapter 11

22. When Randy comes, Pony claims that hey killed Bob and that Johnny is not dead. Why does he do this? How is this a coping mechanism?

Chapter 12

23. In court, Darry claims that Dally is

- a. a rogue
- b. their good friend
- c. gallant
- d. delirious

24. What does it mean when the English teacher says he's "taking into consideration the circumstance?" Is this fair?

25. Ponyboy threatens the Socs with a bottle that he breaks then says, "I knew as well as he [Two-Bit] did that if you got tough you didn't get hurt." Seconds later he cleans up the glass that he broke on the ground. Explain what all of this means about how Ponyboy has changed and how he has stayed the same.

26. What is bothering Soda?

27. Why does Soda feel like he's in the middle of tug o' war with Darry and Pony?

28. Johnny's letter asks Pony to deliver some messages to Dally. Obviously, it is too late, but consider what might have happened if Pony did ask Dally to look at a sunset or tell him that there is good in the world. Pony doubts it would have made a difference. Why does he think it is too late? Use the novel and your opinion.

29. Why is the last line the first line of the novel?

30. How does Pony use writing for personal reasons in this assignment? Why is it a good idea?
