

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
Study Questions

Chapter 1 thru Chapter 4

1) Which character? Pony, Dally, Darry, Soda, Steve, Two-Bit

a) "He has big black eyes and a dark tanned face..."

b) "Leave my kid brother alone, you hear?" (Who's talking?) _____

c) "He gets drunk on plain living..." _____

d) "He would've run away a million time if we hadn't been there." _____

e) "He would be real handsome if his eyes weren't so cold." _____

f) "I like _____ only because he was Soda's best friend." _____

g) Thinks Pony is a tag-along and a kid...

h) Cold, hard and unfeeling (according to the narrator)... _____

i) Got out of the "cooler" early for "good behavior"

j) Scared of his own shadow... _____

k) Always has to have the last word...

l) "understands everybody" _____

True or False

2) Pony says that the Greasers sometimes deserve the treatment they get from other people. _____

3) Which quote is the reason Pony gives for the behavior of Soda and Steve? (The fights, drag races, etc.)

a) "...it's fun..."; b) most girls "looked at us like we were dirt..."; c) the Socs "got all the breaks..."; d) "... too much feeling with no way to blow it off..."; e) "... no specific thing to hate..."

4) Who said, "They are right. You are a hood."

a) The girl at the drive-in; b) The girl in Pony's biology class; c) Steve; d) Two-Bit's mom

5) In Chapter One, Pony says, "I lie to myself all the time." Why would someone lie to himself? Have you ever lied to yourself?

6) In Chapter One, how can you tell that, deep down, Pony knows that Darry loves him, even though Pony says he doesn't? Use a quote from Pony.

7) How are Greasers different from Socs?

8) What happened to Pony on his way home from the movies?

9) Identify Darry, Soda and Ponyboy.

10) Who are other members of Pony's gang?

11) Who did Dally, Johnny and Ponyboy meet at the Nightly Double?

12) Contrast Dally's approach to Cherry and Marcia with Pony's, and contrast Cherry's response to Dally with her response to Pony.

13) Why were Cherry and Marcia alone at the drive-in?

14) Pony was somewhat surprised that he was getting along with Cherry and Marcia. Why?

15) What had happened to Johnny prior to the time of this story?

16) True or False

The gangs we hear about today are like the gangs Pony talks about on page (26?) _____

17) According to Pony--
Greasers: gang:: Socs: _____

18) " Sorry, kid...I forgot." (p. 27?)

a) Who's talking?

b) What's going on?

c) Forgot what?

19) Why would a guy like Johnny have a guy like Dally as a hero? Which other character seems to admire Dally?

20) (slang) cooler: jail:: heater: _____

21) (slang) icebox: fridge:: broad: _____

22) (1 word quote.) What does Cherry say that spares Johnny's feelings?

Foreshadow: (Verb) To represent, or indicate beforehand : to prefigure something is going to happen

23) What does Johnny start doing after the beating? (This is foreshadowing.)

24) "Things are rough all over." (p. 33?)

- a) Who's talking?
- b) What does he/she mean?

25) "I know better now." (p. 34?)

- a) Who's talking?
- b) What does he/she mean? (Know what?)

26) Conflicts

- a) Pony vs. _____ & _____
- b) Johnny vs. _____
- c) Soc vs. _____
- d) Dally vs. _____

27) Who said:

- a) "We aren't in the same class. Just don't forget; some of us watch the sunset, too." _____
- b) "I could fall in love with Dallas Winston."

- c) "I think I like it better when the old man is hitting me." _____

28) Why can Cherry talk to Pony so easily and NOT to her so-called friends? What does Pony mean when he says, "She didn't have to keep her guard up with me."

29) What does Pony mean when he says, "I was wrong?" (p. 48?)

30) After talking to Cherry, what reason does Pony finally give for the separation between Greaser and Socs?

31) Who were Cherry and Marcia's boyfriends?

32) Why didn't the Socs and Greasers fight during their first encounter after the movie?

33) Why was Pony late coming home from the Nightly Double?

34) What caused Pony to "run away"?

35) What happened to Johnny and Ponyboy at the park?

36) To whom do Johnny and Pony turn for help after Johnny killed Bob? Why?

37) Why did Johnny and Pony go to Jay's Mountain?

38) How did S.E. Hinton foreshadow that Johnny would use his knife in Chapter 4?

39) Is Dally's advice/ help any good? Why do the boys think they need to follow it? (Why do they run?) What would you do?

Irony: (Noun) Ironic (Adjective): When something turns out the opposite of what you would expect. Also, sort of like sarcasm Examples:
-It was *ironic* that the fire station burned down.
-It was *ironic* that the police station was robbed.
-It was *ironic* that the soldier survived the war and then was shot in his own front yard after returning home safely.

40) Give an example of irony from *The Outsiders* and one from real life.

41) Why was Darry especially upset with Pony for falling asleep in the lot?

a) He was worried that Pony might get sick; b) He was worried that if he called the police, Darry might be seen as an unfit guardian; c) He was tired of staying up waiting for him; d) He was tired of Pony not using his head; e) b and d

42) What does "really pickled" (p. 50?) mean?

43) Why do we not see Johnny stab the Soc? (Because Pony is a ... and he can only...")

44) (Quote) What was the Socs' reaction when Johnny stabbed Bob?

45) This illustrates Pony's distinction between a _____ & a _____. It shows that the Socs are really a _____.

46) Pony's ears get red (p.54?) because...

a) he's cold; b) he's bleeding; c) he thinks someone is talking about him; d) he's embarrassed

47) True or False

Johnny carelessly pointed a gun at Dally.

48) Which of these is an example of irony from *The Outsiders*?

a) The fact that Pony and Johnny are hiding out in a church; b) The fact that quiet, gentle Johnny is now a killer; c) "I could fall in love with Dallas Winston."; d) Pony's dreams of living in the country are coming "true"; e) All of the above; f) All except a; g) All except d

49) At the end of Chapter 4, how long has it been since Pony and Dally and Johnny sat down by the girls at the drive-in?

a) About 2 days; b) About 24 hours; c) Less than 12 hours; d) About a day and a half

Denotation: (Noun) dictionary definition

Connotation: (Noun) what the word makes you think of

Here are some examples of words that have the same *denotations*, but different *connotations*:

Would you rather be called...

nosy or curious?

irresponsible or carefree?

determined or stubborn?

thin or skinny?

youthful or childish?

unique or weird?

50) For you, what is your connotation of the word "outsider"? Is it positive or negative? Why?

51) Read the poem on the following page.

Richard Cory

by: Edwin Arlington Robinson

Whenever Richard Cory went downtown,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good- morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king -
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

(Analysis)

clean favored = good looking

"imperially slim" 1) What's the *connotation* of that?

arrayed = dressed in fine clothes

a) What does the word *quietly* imply?

b) Human?

c) What does "...fluttered pulses when he said,
'Good-morning...'" mean?

d) Would you want to be Richard Cory?

51) There is one stanza left from this poem I have
purposely left out. From what we know about
Richard Cory so far, predict what the last stanza
will be about.

Richard Cory

by: Edwin Arlington Robinson

Whenever Richard Cory went downtown,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored and **imperially slim**.

And he was always **quietly arrayed**,
And he was always **human** when he talked;
But still he **fluttered pulses** when he said,
"Good- morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king -
And admirably schooled in every grace:
In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat and cursed the bread;
And Richard Cory, on calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head.

52) Explain the *irony* in your own words.

(This is a good explanation.)

Richard Cory was a wealthy man, seemingly blessed in everything the people who admired him thought most important. They respected him, perhaps too much, because to them he was an idealization rather than a living, breathing person. As a result, he was never truly befriended by any of them, but simply held at arm's length and admired. Consequently, he became isolated and incurably lonely. He was thought to 'have it all,' yet the one thing he needed most, the friendship of his fellow man, was withheld from him; it never occurred to his admirers that he had the same needs as they did. Eventually, when the loneliness and alienation became unbearable, he took his life.

53) Which characters from *The Outsiders* could be compared to Richard Cory?

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Study Questions

Chapter 5 thru Chapter 6

1) If you were force to run away and hide for a week, where would you go and how would you spend your time?

2) Johnny and Pony react differently to Dally. Explain how this might be.

3) "Nothing Gold Can Stay" was written by Robert Frost. Read it at the end of this section.

a) What is Frost trying to say in this poem? (Try to sum it up in a phrase or two.)

b) How does this poem apply to the events/characters of the novel so far?

c) What "gold" did Pony have that didn't last?

d) Is this supposed to be a sad poem? What makes you think so/not?

4) Quote: "Johnny shrugged. 'Yeah, I guess we're different' 'Shoot,' I said, 'Maybe they are.'" (p. 70?) What is your reaction/response to this quote?

5) Do you think the problems Pony and the rest of the Greasers faced in the 1960's are similar to those kids face, today? What has changed? What is still the same? What might we learn from their experiences?

6) Pony's first feeling when he wakes up in the church is...

a) fear; b) confusion; c) cold; d) relief

7) Give an example of irony from Chapter 5 (Hint: Johnny)

8) *Gone with the Wind* (the book Johnny and Pony are reading) takes place during...

a) the War Between the States; b) 1776; c) the 1950's; d) the future

9) What example does Johnny give to show why he thinks Dally is gallant?

10) Johnny says Pony's family is "funny." Why? (Summarize **very** briefly.)

11) How did Soda figure out that Dally knew where the boys ran to? (The _____.)

12) Find the quote that answers: Why did the police haul **Dally** into the station after the events at the park?

13) Find two quotes that answer: Where are the police looking for Pony and Johnny? Why?

14) Find the quote that answers: What has been the result of Johnny killing Bob, as far as the feud between Socs and Greasers is concerned?

15) What quote answers: What has Dally started doing as a result?

16) What upcoming event will supposedly settle the Soc vs. Greaser thing once and for all?

17) What two words does Soda misspell in his letter to Pony?

Nothing Gold Can Stay

by: Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest **hue** to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf **subsides** to leaf.
So Eden sank to **grief**,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

(Analysis)

Hue = color

subsides = falls back down

Eden = Adam and Eve

How did they "sink to grief"?

so = like, in the same way as

(This is a good explanation.)

Nature's first green is gold

(early leaves are a golden-green color, almost yellow when they are very new and young)

Her hardest hue to hold

(this color fades quickly as the leaf grows and deepens to darker green)

Her early leaf's a flower

(referring to the budding of trees and plants which often takes the form of a flower briefly before turning to leaf)

But only so an hour

(the flowering of trees can be completed start to finish in a matter of days, a relatively short period in terms of the tree's total leaf cycle)

Then leaf subsides to leaf

(When it's over the leaf becomes just a leaf, not a flower, not gold)

So Eden sank to grief

(Eden was also once, though briefly, a golden, flowering place until Eve and that apple)

So dawn goes down to day

(the gorgeous colors of dawn and early morning give way to just another day)

Nothing gold can stay

(a mourning for the golden things, for youthful things, time passing or times past)

(it is the nature of beautiful things to last only briefly and then become bland, mundane, or fade away entirely. In the case of the leaf, it has one more beautiful moment in the fall and then dies. the poem is about the cycle of life. things are always more beautiful when they're young.)

18) What makes a "hero?" What does it mean when we say, "He/she is my hero?"

19) What do we learn about Dally when he talks to Johnny about jail and goes into the church to save him? Do you think he would have done the same for Pony? Do you think he would have done the same for Pony? Darry? A Soc? Why or why not?

20) Give me two quotes that show what two reasons does Dally give to try to convince Johnny **not** to turn himself in?

21) Explain why Johnny's behavior (not scared, having fun, very decisive) inside the burning church is ironic.

22) Explain why Johnny's behavior inside the burning church is **not** ironic.

23) Why is it ironic that Pony wanted to take off Dally's jacket because it was too hot?

24) Why is it ironic when Jerry says, "...Or are you just professional heroes or something?"

25) Give me a quote that shows how/when Pony finally realizes that Darry really does care about him?

26) In chapter 6, S.E. Hinton uses humor several times to "take the edge off" the seriousness of the fire in the church. Give 3 examples.

27) How did S.E. Hinton foreshadow that the church would catch fire? (2 ways)

28) Why was Ponyboy upset about getting a haircut?

29) What was Johnny's favorite part of *Gone with the Wind*? Of whom did it remind him?

30) When Dally finally arrives at the church, what news does he bring?

31) What did Johnny announce after his fifth BBQ sandwich?

32) Describe Johnny's relationship with his parents.

33) What happened when Johnny, Pony and Dally returned to the church?

Chapter 7 thru Chapter 9

1) Why do the Curtises leave their door unlocked?

2) What nicknames do they use for Darry?

3) Why was Darry so upset when Steve referred to him as "all brawn and no brain"?

4) What two charges do Pony and Johnny face for the "Bob incident"?

5) Tell me the reason Ponyboy gives Randy for going into the church to save the kids. (Two possible answers.)

6) What did Bob want from his parents that he never got? (Quote)

7) How is Bob like Johnny?

8) Back in Chapter 2 Pony said, "I really couldn't see what Socs had to sweat about-- good grades, good cars, good girls, madras and Mustangs...I know better now." (p.34?) How is Pony beginning to "know better now?" Use an example from Chapter 7 in your answer. (pp. 102-103?)

"Greaser didn't have anything to do with it...It's the individual." (What has Pony learned about stereotypes?)

"If his old man had belted him...just once, he might still be alive." (Do you agree? Why or why not?)

9) What does Two-Bit mean when he says, "You know, the only thing that keeps Darry from being a Soc is us"? (p. 111?)

10) What word (that turns up often) comes up again when Pony compares his mother to Johnny's?

11) (Use a quote from Dally) What makes Pony, for the first time, think of Dally as his buddy?

12) On page 111? we get an example of **irony** from Two-Bit. What is it?

13) On page 111? we also get an example of what seems to be **foreshadowing**. What is it?

14) Use a quote from Cherry to show how Dally is like Bob.

15) Why does Pony suddenly bring up the sunset when he is talking to Cherry? (p. 114?) What is he trying to say?

a) "I understand your problems now."; b) He's trying to change the subject, because Johnny's condition is too sad to talk about; c) "Can I come over to your house to watch the sunset?"; d) He's trying to make her feel guilty.

16) Why might Dally have asked for Two-Bit's knife? (p.110?) What might S.E. Hinton be **foreshadowing**?

17) Why does Pony say that Darry had "a right to be jealous; he was ashamed to be on our side..." (p. 124?) Is he? Why?

18) What advice does Johnny give to Pony? What do you think it means? Do you think Pony will be able to follow it? What/who does he have that will help him?

19) On page 128? Dally starts raving wildly: "...you get tough like me and you don't hurt. You look out for yourself and nothin' can touch you..." How is this **ironic**? Do you agree with him that this is the right way to be?

20) Pony says that the Greasers "always get spruced up before a rumble." This is...

a) to surprise the Socs; b) to show off; c) to show the Socs they are not trash; d) all of the above; e) none of the above

21) Soda likes fights...

a) for the action; b) for the competition; c) because everyone else does; d) a and b; e) none of the above; f) a, b, and c

22) Steve fight for...

a) conformity; b) action; c) hatred; d) pride

23) Darry fights for...

a) pride; b) conformity; c) the action; d) hatred; e) all of the above; f) none of the above

24) Two-Bit fights for...

a) he hates the world; b) he's proud of his muscles; c) because everyone fights; d) all of the above; e) none of the above

25) What makes Tim Shepard's gang and the Brumly boys different from Pony and his gang? a) The Shepard and Brumly gangs are not very well organized; b) The Shepard and Brumly gangs are a lot older; c) The Shepard and Brumly gangs were going to be hood all of their lives; d) Pony and his gang used knives and other weapons; e) none of the above; f) all of the above

26) Pony compares the scene of Darry and Soc, Paul, circling each other to...

a) a scene from a JD movie; b) a boxing match; c) a wrestling match; d) wolves in a Jack London book

27) True or False

Darry was the first one to throw a punch in the rumble.

28) How did Dally get out of the hospital?

a) snuck out; b) bribed a nurse; c) the doctor said he was well enough to leave; d) he "talked" the nurse into it

29) What lie does Dally tell the police officer as his excuse for speeding?

30) What simile does Pony use to describe how Johnny looks after he dies?

31) When Johnny's mother came to visit him at the hospital, what was Johnny's reaction?

32) Why wouldn't Cherry go visit Johnny?

33) Identify Paul Holden.

34) Who "won" the rumble?

35) Where did Dally take Pony after the rumble?

36) How do we know Dally felt at least partially responsible for Johnny's fate?

37) What advice did Dally give to Pony on the way to the hospital after the rumble?

38) What were Johnny's last words to Ponyboy?

Chapter 10 thru Chapter 12

1) "But I knew that was what Dally wanted...and he always got what he wanted." (p. 134?) Did he really always get what he wanted? Explain.

Gallant: (Adjective) **1.** brave, spirited, noble-minded, or chivalrous: *a gallant knight; a gallant rescue attempt.* **2.** exceptionally polite and attentive to women; courtly.

2) Was Dallas Winston **gallant**? Use at least two examples from the book to back up what you say.

3) What does Pony mean when he says, "Nothing we can do... not for Dally or Johnny or Tim Shepard of any of us...?"

4) How does Pony get home from hospital?

5) When Pony told the rest of the gang how Dally ran out of the hospital, they...

a) were all shocked; b) said they knew it would happen; c) realized that there were some things that affected even Dally; d) none of the above

6) Pony's injuries after the rumble included...

a) shock; b) exhaustion; c) concussion; d) all of the above; e) none of the above

7) What was the reason Pony gave for not wanting to eat while he was sick?

8) Why is Dally's death almost sadder than Johnny's?

9) Thinking about Bob, Pony asks, "His parents let him run wild- because they loved him too much or too little? (p. 141?) What do you think? Why?"

10) Explain why Two-Bit is relieved when he sees Pony picking up the broken glass. (p. 149?)

11) Explain what Soda means when he says, "If you don't have anything, you end up like Dallas... and I don't mean dead either. I mean like he was before. And that's worse than dead." (p.152?)

12) Who are the Outsiders? Why do you think so?

13) On page 155? Pony says, "Suddenly it wasn't only a personal thing to me..." What lessons has he learned from his experiences? (about: stereotypes, conformity, and peer pressure, need for family, the (un) fairness of life...)

14) How would the novel be different if the story were told from Soda's point of view? Dally's? Darry's?

15) What is (are) the theme(s) of *The Outsiders*? What lessons can we learn from their experiences?

16) What might the future hold for Pony?" Soda? Darry? The rest?

17) When Pony wonders how Bob's parents feel about Pony and Johnny he...

a) hopes Bob's parents hate them; b) hopes Bob's parents feel sorry for them; c) hopes Bob's parents understand why it happened; d) none of the above

18) In Chapter 11, Pony insists that he was the one that killed Bob, and that Johnny is alive. This is a stage of grief called...

a) anger; b) acceptance; c) denial; d) shock; e) none of the above

19) In Chapter 11, Pony says that the only feeling he's had in a while has been...

a) anger; b) resentment; c) relief; d) fear; e) none of the above

20) What does Darry **do** in Chapter 11 that "he's never done" before?

21) What did Pony decide was the reason Dally couldn't take Johnny's death?

22) Why did Dally rob the grocery store and then raise his unloaded gun to the police?

23) Why would Pony have thought he was in Windrixville while he was delirious?

24) What was Pony's reaction when Randy talked about Johnny?

25) What was the result of the court hearing?

26) How did Pony react to the three Socs who bullied him about killing Bob?

27) Johnny's note made several points. What were they?

28) How do we know that Ponyboy will be all right?