The Outsiders

Overview

Background In writing The Outsiders, Hinton immersed herself in the harsh realism of teens’ lives. She wrote about real teen issues at a time when these topics were not popular in young adult literature. She exposed real teen behavior and problems in plots that included fighting, cigarette smoking, suicide, and underage drinking. The universality of its message is why The Outsiders has become a classic.

After reading the novel, Hinton’s mother inquired, “Susie, where did you pick up all of this”? This lack of awareness about the reality of teens’ lives was typical of most parents and teachers.

Book Summary Ponyboy Curtis belongs to the greasers, a group of social outcasts who live on the poor side of town. Their rivals, the Socials, come from affluent homes and seem to have all the advantages. The rivalry heats up when Johnny, a greaser, kills a Social in an attempt to save Ponyboy from an attack. Ponyboy struggles to make sense of his life while learning that all teens struggle with the same issues, no matter which side of town they live on.

About the Author

Susan Eloise Hinton was born during the 1950s in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She began writing The Outsiders when she was fifteen. She later had the story published during her freshman year at the University of Tulsa.

Hinton’s publisher, worrying that the novel would not be respected because of Hinton’s age and gender, encouraged Hinton to publish under her initials. Hinton agreed, preferring to publish under a different name to maintain her anonymity. Hinton went on to write more books, but none were as successful as The Outsiders.

The ALA and the School Library Journal chose Hinton to be the first recipient of the Margaret A. Edward Award. This award is given to authors whose books “have been accepted by young people as an authentic voice that continues to illuminate their experiences and emotions, giving insight into their lives.”
Reading the Book

There are several options for reading *The Outsiders*. They include:

- **Whole Class** Assign sections of the book and discussion dates using the planner on *Student Journal, page 1*. After students read a section and respond to the corresponding *Student Journal* pages, have a class discussion. At the end of the book, the class meets for *The Exchange*.

- **Small Groups** Read the book’s *Introduction* with the group. Group members then read an agreed-upon number of pages, complete the corresponding *Student Journal* pages, and meet to discuss. When they finish the book, they meet again for *The Exchange*. Use the planner on *Student Journal, page 1* to establish meeting times.

- **Independently** Students read the book on their own and then meet as a group for *The Exchange*. Use the planner on *Student Journal, page 1* to establish the meeting time.

- **Guided Reading** Have students read *Student Journal, page 2* and monitor their discussion of the *What If?* scenario. Read aloud the book’s *Introduction* to give students background on the book. As students read, use the *Before You Move On* questions to guide comprehension. Use the *Look Ahead* to set a focus for reading the next set of pages. At the end of each section, assign the appropriate *Student Journal* pages. Discuss the pages before starting the next section. Establish a date for *The Exchange* and record it on the planner.

Getting Started

Have students read *What If?* on *Student Journal, page 2* and discuss the scenario. Encourage students to describe the similarities and differences between the scenario and their lives and imagine how the situation would affect them.

- Have students write their responses to the three questions below the scenario and compare answers with a partner or the group.

- Have students discuss how the situation might relate to *The Exchange* question and then write a brief summary of their discussion in the *Student Journal*.
Introduction

Have students read the book Introduction. Check their comprehension with the three follow-up questions on Student Journal, page 3.

Introduction: Key Concepts

Have students study the first Key Concept with the help of the graphic organizer on Student Journal, page 4. After studying the example, they should create similar graphic organizers to focus their understanding of the remaining Key Concepts.
Pages 13–51

Answers for Before You Move On

Chapters 1–2

Page 32

1. Conflict  Reread pages 16–18. What is the problem that begins the story? What does the problem tell you about Ponyboy and his friends?

Ponyboy is walking home alone when he is surrounded by Socs who beat him up. Ponyboy and his friends are different from the Socs. The Socs do not like them.

2. Comparisons  How do Darry and Sodapop treat Ponyboy differently?

Sodapop is nicer to Ponyboy and understands him; Darry is strict and tells Ponyboy everything he does wrong.

Page 51

1. Flashback  Reread pages 49–50. Johnny gets beaten up badly by the Socs. What does Ponyboy learn from Cherry’s reaction to the story?

Cherry is shocked, and she tries to convince Ponyboy that not all Socs are bad. She tells Ponyboy that Socs have problems, too. He realizes that maybe they share some things in common.

2. Character  Reread page 49. How does Johnny change after he is beaten up by the Socs? Why does he change?

He becomes more nervous and scared. He is never alone and begins to carry a knife. Johnny has become so scared that he would now kill someone rather than be beaten again.

Student Journal, page 5

Respond to Chapters 1–2

1. Personal Response  Darry must be a parent to Ponyboy. He thinks that the best way to discipline Ponyboy is to yell at him. If you were Darry, how would you discipline Ponyboy?

2. Comparisons  Ponyboy explains that people think of greasers as delinquents. What do the greasers do that makes people think of them this way? Use the word delinquent in your response.

Ponyboy explains that people think of them as delinquents because they are wild and reckless and live in a poor neighborhood. Greasers steal things, get in fights, and drive old, souped-up cars.

3. Allusion  Ponyboy compares himself to Pip, the main character in Dickens’s Great Expectations. People think less of Pip because he is poor. Why does Ponyboy compare himself to Pip?

Ponyboy feels that everyone judges him wrongly because he is a greaser. He thinks people expect him to be rude, violent, and dumb. But Ponyboy is sensitive, smart, and enjoys school.

4. Generate Questions  Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Student Journal, page 6

Respond to Chapters 1–2, continued

5. Character  In Chapters 1–2, Ponyboy introduces Johnny. Write what you know about Johnny. Use the Details Web to answer the question.

Details Web

Johnny

- is treated like the group pet
- is beaten up by the Socials
- looks young for his age
- carries a knife
- admires Dallas
- is shy and soft-spoken
- abused at home

How is Johnny unlike the typical greaser? Why do you think he chose to be a greaser?

Johnny is not tough like other greasers. Instead, he is shy and fearful. Johnny is a greaser because he is looking for the love and acceptance missing in his home life. The greasers give Johnny the unconditional love he needs.
Answers for Before You Move On

Chapters 3–4

1. **Comparisons**  Cherry says the Socs are always going without direction, like rats. How are the greasers different?

   Socs are emotionally cool and at times unfeeling; greasers let their emotions take over, and they become violent.

2. **Sequence**  What happens to make Ponyboy want to run away?

   *Ponyboy and Darry get into a fight; Darry hits him; Ponyboy runs out of the house; he finds Johnny and asks him to run away.*

Page 84

1. **Conclusions**  Reread pages 73–74. Why do you think Ponyboy and Johnny decide to run away after the murder?

   *They are young, scared, and do not know what else to do. They probably fear that the law will not be fair to greasers.*

2. **Inference**  Why does Dallas help Ponyboy and Johnny after the murder?

   *Dallas is a greaser, and the group believes in loyalty. Dallas has been in trouble himself, so he knows how scary it is.*

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**Student Journal, page 7**

**Respond to Chapters 3–4**

1. **Personal Response**  Ponyboy thinks that he would feel free and safe in the country. In what place do you feel the most comfortable? Why?

   

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2. **Comparisons**  Ponyboy realizes he and Cherry have things in common, even though they are from rival groups. How are Ponyboy and Cherry alike? Use the word *rival* in your response.

   Even though Cherry and Ponyboy are from rival groups, they both enjoy some of the same things, like watching sunsets. They also both feel like their groups are misunderstood.

3. **Cause and Effect**  Why does Darry react so angrily when Ponyboy stays out late with Johnny? What effect does Darry’s discipline have on Ponyboy?

   Darry reacts this way because he is worried. He knows that he is responsible for keeping the family together. Darry thinks that hitting will make Ponyboy obey him. This form of discipline only makes Ponyboy run away and less willing to confide in Darry.

4. **Generate Questions**  Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

   

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**Student Journal, page 8**

**Respond to Chapters 3–4, continued**

5. **Plot**  In Chapters 3–4, Ponyboy and Johnny get into trouble with the Socs. Write the effects of the characters’ actions in the Effects box.

   **Cause and Effect Chart**

   **Causes**

   - Dallas teases Cherry and Marcia.
   - Ponyboy, Johnny, and Two-Bit walk the girls home.
   - The Socs start a fight with Ponyboy and Johnny.
   - The boys ask Dallas for help.

   **Effects**

   - Ponyboy and Johnny sit with the girls.
   - The Socs drive by and see them.
   - Johnny stabs Bob.
   - Dallas helps the boys hide from the police.

   How might the story have been different if Ponyboy and Johnny had teased the girls along with Dallas?

   If the boys had teased the girls, the girls would not have invited the boys to walk them home. The Socs would not have needed to fight Ponyboy and Johnny. Johnny would not have killed one of the Socs.
Chapters 5–6

1. Conclusions Reread page 88. The boys cut their hair to disguise themselves. Why does it upset them so much? Hair is a matter of pride for greasers; it defines them. Ponyboy feels different without his hair. Johnny is upset because he knows what Ponyboy’s hair means to him.

2. Author’s Style The poem on page 95 is about being young and innocent, but also about how hard it is to stay innocent. Why do you think the author includes it? It reflects what Johnny and Ponyboy are experiencing. Even though they are young, they are suddenly thrust into a situation involving murder.

1. Character’s Motive Why do you think Ponyboy and Johnny run into the fire to save the kids? They worry that they might have left a lit cigarette in the church and feel responsible for the children who are trapped in the fire. Their true instinct is to do the right thing.

2. Irony Reread pages 114–115. The teacher asks Ponyboy if he was sent from heaven. Why does Ponyboy respond the way he does? Ponyboy is running from the law for murder. He does not feel like a good person and does not want to be praised.

Respond to Chapters 5–6

1. Personal Response Ponyboy is proud of his hair. He feels like it is part of his identity. What part of your identity are you the most proud of? Why?

2. Summarize The Socials and greasers decide to fight to determine territory. What happens to the greasers’ territory if they win? If the Socs win? Use the word territory in your response.

If the Socials win, they may continue to invade the greasers’ territory. If the greasers win, the Socials must stay out.

3. Irony Johnny, Ponyboy, and Dallas are heroes for rescuing the children. Why is it ironic when Jerry Wood says they were sent from heaven? It is ironic to say they were sent from heaven because the boys were hiding from the police after they had killed someone.

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

If the Socials win, they may continue to invade the greasers’ territory. If the greasers win, the Socials must stay out.
**Chapters 7–8**

**PAGE 138**

1. **Inference** Reread page 131. Why does Sandy move to Florida to live with her grandmother?
   Sandy moves to Florida to get away from Sodapop.

2. **Character's Point of View** Reread pages 135–137. Why does Randy want to avoid the rumble?
   Randy is tired of the violence and feels that it will never solve anything. He thinks it will only result in more people getting killed or hurt.

**PAGE 151**

1. **Character's Point of View** Why doesn't Johnny want to see his mother when she comes to the hospital?
   Johnny's mother is abusive. He thinks she is only coming to the hospital to yell at him. He knows she does not care about him.

2. **Inference** What do Ponyboy and Two-Bit mean when they say that they can get along without anyone but Johnny?
   Johnny is the gang’s “pet” and everybody loves him. Johnny reminds them of their gentler sides.

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**Student Journal, page 11**

** Respond to Chapters 7–8 **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Personal Response</th>
<th>The local newspapers call Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dallas heroes. Who is your hero? Why is he or she heroic?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Inference</th>
<th>Reporters fill the hospital to interview the boys. What about the boys' social background might make the reporters so interested in the story? Use social in your response.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The reporters are interested in the story because the boys are greasers and come from a poor social background. The reporters think it is unusual for them to do something heroic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Comparisons</th>
<th>Randy tells Ponyboy about Bob's home life. How is it similar to and different from Johnny's home life?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neither boy is happy at home. Johnny’s parents do not love him. They beat him and ignore him. Bob’s parents smother him with material things and freedom. Bob wants some discipline as a sign of love.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Generate Questions</th>
<th>Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Student Journal, page 12**

** Respond to Chapters 7–8, continued **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Comparisons</th>
<th>In Chapters 7–8, visitors come to see Johnny at the hospital. Describe what Johnny says and does and what this reveals about him.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Description Map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>What the Character Does</th>
<th>What This Shows About the Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnny</td>
<td>smiles when the newspapers call him a hero</td>
<td>is proud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>asks for Gone with the Wind</td>
<td>enjoys stories of bravery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wants to put more grease in his hair</td>
<td>identifies with the greasers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>changes his mind about wanting to kill himself</td>
<td>regains hope for the future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>will not see his mother</td>
<td>does not want to focus on negative things anymore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Johnny was hearing Ponyboy read about the southern gentlemen who rode off to war, knowing that they would die. How is Johnny similar to a southern gentleman?
Johnny knows the right thing to do is to try to save the children in the burning church. He is honorable. He faces whatever complications come his way with dignity and independence.
Pages 152–190

Answers for Before You Move On

Chapters 9–11

Page 171

1. Character Reread pages 157–158. The boys say they are hoods and menaces to society. Why?
   They are preparing themselves for the rumble. They are mimicking what they have been told all of their lives, because they want to feel tough for their fight.

2. Comparisons Reread pages 169–171. How has Dallas changed since the beginning of the story?
   Dallas used to be cool-tempered and slick; now he is emotional, nervous, and volatile.

Page 190

1. Character’s Motive Reread page 176. Why does Dallas want the police to shoot him?
   Dallas is in a lot of pain. He loved Johnny and feels like he failed him. He does not want to live after Johnny dies.

2. Inference Reread pages 188–189. Why does Ponyboy say he was the one who killed Bob?
   Ponyboy is in denial that Johnny killed someone, and that he is now dead. He wants to take the blame for Johnny.

Respond to Chapters 9–11

1. Personal Response What character or event do you relate to the most in this part of the book? Why?

2. Character’s Point of View At the rumble, Darry faces a former classmate and teammate, Paul Holden. Why are Darry and Paul rivals? Use the word rivals in your response.

3. Cause and Effect What causes Ponyboy to be worried that he might not have asked for Darry while he was ill?
   In the past, Ponyboy and Darry did not understand one another. Now, Ponyboy knows Darry cares about him. He wants Darry to know that he loves him and appreciates all the things he has done for him.

4. Generate Questions Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

Respond to Chapters 9–11, continued

5. Opinions In Chapters 9–11, Johnny and Dallas die. List details about each character’s actions in the T Chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dallas</th>
<th>Johnny</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pulls Johnny from the fire</td>
<td>praised as a hero in the newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>escapes from the hospital to fight</td>
<td>stops looking for love from his family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carries an unloaded gun to bluff</td>
<td>admires Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>is present when Johnny dies</td>
<td>dies in peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cannot live without Johnny</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do Johnny and Dallas die as greasers or heroes, or both? Explain.
Answers for Before You Move On

Chapter 12

PAGE 205

1. **Character**  How has Ponyboy changed from the beginning of the story?

   *Ponyboy used to be sensitive and gentle. Now, he wants to become tough like the other greasers he looks up to.*

2. **Theme**  Reread page 203. How does Johnny’s letter relate to the theme Ways to Wisdom?

   *Johnny is scared of everything, but on his deathbed, he lets go of his fears and speaks with wisdom about what he has learned. He realizes what is really important in life, and how it should be lived.*

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**Respond to Chapter 12**

1. **Personal Response**  Ponyboy writes his theme about greasers because he thinks they are misunderstood. If you had to write about a social group in your school, which group would you choose? Why?

2. **Comparisons**  How are the circumstances of Ponyboy’s life better by the end of the story? How are they worse? Use the word circumstance in your response.

   *Ponyboy’s circumstances are better because he understands Soda and Darry better. But he has lost two close friends, and he is not doing as well in school.*

3. **Dialogue**  After Soda runs out of the house, the three brothers have a talk about their relationship. What does their conversation tell you about how the boys feel about each other?

   *Their dialogue shows that the boys love each other and want to take care of one another even though they face conflicts and often misunderstand each other.*

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**Respond to Chapter 12**, continued

4. **Connect**  Look at your notes on Student Journal, page 2. Think about what might happen if you had to make a decision about life, and school could not teach you the answer. Compare this to *The Outsiders*. What does life teach Ponyboy that school does not?

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**What If?**

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**Respond to Chapter 12**, continued

5. **Author’s Purpose**  In Chapter 12, Ponyboy wants to write about the greasers for his English class. List the details of Ponyboy’s theme in the Five Ws Chart.

   **Five Ws Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Is It?</th>
<th>Ponyboy’s theme about greasers for English class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who Is It About?</td>
<td>Ponyboy, his family, the greasers, and the Socs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where Is the Setting?</td>
<td>in their town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When Does It Take Place?</td>
<td>during high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why Does He Write It?</td>
<td>to tell the story of the greasers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**What If?**

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**Student Journal, page 15**

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**Student Journal, page 16**

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The Outsiders

Exchange Discussion

THE QUESTION

What can life teach us that school cannot?

- What does Ponyboy understand about life after he reads Johnny’s letter?
  Ponyboy learns that becoming a hardened, unfeeling person is not the way he wants to live. Johnny’s letter shows him that his sensitivity and appreciation for the beauty in the world is what makes him “gold.”

- Randy chooses not to participate in the rumble because he believes that violence does not solve problems. Have you ever learned to avoid something due to experiences you have had and life lessons you have learned? Explain.

- Based on your own life experiences, what does “staying gold” mean to you?

Evaluate the Discussion

Use the reproducible master from page 11 of this Teacher’s Guide to evaluate The Exchange discussion. The form may also be used by students for group assessment.

Discussion Rubric

Evaluate the Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everyone participated.</td>
<td>Most people participated.</td>
<td>Only a few people participated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone spoke clearly.</td>
<td>Most people spoke clearly.</td>
<td>Some people did not speak clearly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone listened carefully.</td>
<td>Most people listened carefully.</td>
<td>Some people did not listen carefully.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We stayed on the topic throughout the discussion.</td>
<td>We stayed on the topic most of the time.</td>
<td>We did not stay on the topic all the time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We responded to each other’s thoughts and ideas often.</td>
<td>We commented on each other’s thoughts and ideas sometimes.</td>
<td>We did not make many comments on each other’s thoughts and ideas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
<td>Many people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
<td>Only a few people used examples from the book to support their points.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most people gave detailed answers using their experiences and even other texts.</td>
<td>Many people gave detailed answers using their experiences.</td>
<td>Only a few people gave detailed answers.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Notes:
# Evaluate the Discussion

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</table>

**Notes:**

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Bob is angry that greasers talk to his bad and criminal Johnny does not want to be a greaser, but Johnny was rude to her at the movie Johnny is too violent to be trusted. 

Determination violence is a part of many teens' lives showing Ponyboy as forgetful and 

Ponyboy and Johnny just happen to be Cherry does not like hospitals unhealthy and sick Johnny wants to do the right thing. 

Girlfriends of the Socials cause trouble they fall asleep and the Socials think they Johnny is upset about killing Bob and he Johnny killed her boyfriend 

Ponyboy is a greaser and the youngest showing how Sodapop feels about Sandy accord 

Name: 

authority only small towns are safe Interpretation is weak 

The violent greasers kill a Soc. Greasers cool and attractive including the editorials about Johnny life in the city is dangerous 

Darry is angry with Ponyboy for being a people from different social classes will 

Like his mother, Johnny is cold and does athletic and fit 

Johnny really likes children. 

Cherry is afraid the Socials will be angry suffering to mourning after Johnny dies by— 

The author changes the mood from one of Johnny was wowed to her at the movie theater 

A. Johnny killed her boyfriend 

B. Cherry doesn't like hospitals 

Cherry is afraid the Socials will be angry at her 

The Socials attack Ponyboy and Johnny in the 

D. Ponyboy and Johnny just happen to be there. 

The setting of the story shows that— A. life in the city is dangerous B. violence is a part of many teen's lives C. only small towns are safe D. people from different social classes will never be able to communicate without violence. 

Why does the narrator describe Johnny's eye as black and defeated? A. Johnny does not want to be a greaser, but he has no choice. B. Like his mother, Johnny is cold and does not show feelings. C. Johnny is too violent to be trusted. D. Johnny was broken by the Socials and is afraid of getting hurt again.
Assessment Part I

Circle the best answer.

1. The Socials assume the greasers are delinquents. In this sentence, the word *delinquents* means—
   A athletic and fit
   B cool and attractive
   C bad and criminal
   D unhealthy and sick

2. The author changes the mood from one of suffering to mourning after Johnny dies by—
   A showing how Sodapop feels about Sandy
   B showing Ponyboy as forgetful and unconcerned with schoolwork
   C including the editorials about Johnny being a hero
   D bringing Johnny’s mother to the hospital

3. Cherry refuses to visit Johnny in the hospital because—
   A Johnny was rude to her at the movie theater
   B Johnny killed her boyfriend
   C Cherry does not like hospitals
   D Cherry is afraid the Socials will be angry at her

4. The Socials attack Ponyboy and Johnny in the park because—
   A they fall asleep and the Socials think they are criminals
   B they invade the Socials’ territory
   C they talk to the Socials’ girlfriends during a movie
   D Ponyboy and Johnny just happen to be there

5. The setting of the story shows that—
   A life in the city is dangerous
   B violence is a part of many teens’ lives
   C only small towns are safe
   D people from different social classes will never be able to communicate without violence

6. Why does the narrator describe Johnny’s eyes as black and defeated? 
   A Johnny does not want to be a greaser, but he has no choice.
   B Like his mother, Johnny is cold and does not show feelings.
   C Johnny is too violent to be trusted.
   D Johnny was beaten up by the Socials and is afraid of getting hurt again.
Assessment Part I, continued

Circle the best answer.

7. Darry always yells at Ponyboy because—
   A Darry does not want him to go out with Cherry
   B Darry resents that Ponyboy is smart
   C Darry is afraid that he, Soda, and Ponyboy will be separated
   D Darry is angry with Ponyboy for being a greaser

8. What can the reader conclude about Johnny’s motive for running into the burning church?
   A Johnny wants to do the right thing.
   B Johnny really likes children.
   C Johnny is upset about killing Bob and he wants to die, too.
   D Johnny only wants to retrieve his and Ponyboy’s belongings.

9. Bob is angry that greasers talk to his girlfriend. The Socials and greasers have a fight to determine territory. Darry and Paul were once friends, but now fight for opposing gangs. These are examples of—
   A authority
   B accord
   C rivalry
   D determination

10. Which of the following is the best summary of the story?
    A Two boys from the greaser gang are involved in a street fight late one night. The fight begins a chain of events that will change their lives and the lives of their friends forever. Darry and Ponyboy fight because Ponyboy is too young to stay out late. Ponyboy respects his teacher and decides to write about his life.
    B Girlfriends of the Socials cause trouble when they talk to greasers in the movie theater. The Socials attack Ponyboy, but Johnny comes to his defense. Johnny and Ponyboy leave town. Soda is heartbroken. He loses his girlfriend and his brother in the same week.
    C Ponyboy is a greaser and the youngest of three brothers living on their own. The bond between the greasers helps them protect each other from the Socials. Greasers and Socials are rivals. Both groups fight and cause trouble. Ponyboy questions the rivalry between the two gangs. After a Soc is killed and two of his greaser friends die, Ponyboy decides to tell their story.
    D The violent greasers kill a Soc. Greasers want to date Socials, but are stopped by the Socials’ leader. Ponyboy and Johnny run away, try to change their appearance, and burn down a church. Dallas, once again, has to come to the rescue.
Assessment Part II

Choose one question to answer. Write 3–4 paragraphs. Use 3 examples from the text to support your answer. Continue your essay on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

A. At the end of the story, what do Ponyboy, Johnny, and Randy all learn from their experiences? What events help them grow? Give an example of a difficult experience that taught you a valuable lesson.

B. The Socials and greasers struggle with real problems teens faced during this time period. What social issues do modern teens struggle with? How can teens help adults to better understand these issues?

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## Guidelines for Short Essay

Have students write a short essay in response to one of the writing prompts below. Use the **Scoring Guide** to assist in your evaluation of their essays.

### A.
At the end of the story, what do Ponyboy, Johnny, and Randy all learn from their experiences? What events help them grow? Give an example of a difficult experience that taught you a valuable lesson.

Responses should include that Ponyboy learns from all the different people he meets that people are not defined by what group they belong to, but by who they are as individuals. Before he dies, Johnny learns that life is short and to value the beauty in it. From Bob’s death, Randy learns that violence does not solve problems.

### B.
The Socials and greasers struggle with real problems teens faced during this time period. What social issues do modern teens struggle with? How can teens help adults to better understand these issues?

Responses could include issues such as drugs, alcohol, school violence, divorce, abuse, peer pressure, and other societal pressures. Solutions could include dialogue with parents and teachers, expression through art, or forms of proactive community involvement.

## Scoring Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the response:</th>
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| 4  | • Interpretation is accurate and thoughtful  
|    | • Explanation is fully developed  
|    | • Support includes specific and relevant text evidence  
|    | • All parts of the question are clearly addressed |
| 3  | • Interpretation is adequate  
|    | • Explanation is developed but may lack some insight  
|    | • Support includes most specific and relevant text evidence  
|    | • All parts of the question are addressed to some degree |
| 2  | • Interpretation is literal or limited  
|    | • Explanation is incomplete  
|    | • Support includes some specific and relevant text evidence  
|    | • Only parts of the question are addressed and mostly in a limited way |
| 1  | • Interpretation is weak  
|    | • Explanation is vague  
|    | • Support includes few, if any, relevant details from the text  
|    | • Only one part of the question is minimally addressed |
| 0  | Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant |