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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

## Chapter 1 p. 1-18

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Describe the characteristics that made Ponyboy unique among his friends.

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2. Compare and contrast the Socs and the greasers.

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3. Why did the greasers resent the Socs?

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4. Explain the reason for the tension between Ponyboy and Darry. Give your opinion.

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5. The author used a metaphor to describe Johnny Cade. Explain.

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 2 p. 19-36

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why, do you think, did Dally harass Cherry and Marcia?

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2. What caused Dally to stare at Johnny in disbelief? Why was Dally's response unusual for him?

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3. Explain why Two-Bit's trick on Johnny was especially cruel.

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4. What argument did Cherry use to defend the Socs?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

## Chapter 3

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. What did Cherry say to Ponyboy that caused "a nervous bitterness" to grow inside him?

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2. Which of Cherry's statements came as a big surprise to Ponyboy and caused his mouth to drop? In your opinion, why was Ponyboy surprised?

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3. Explain how Darry acted as a parent when Ponyboy arrived home late. Judge Ponyboy's reaction. What would you have done in this situation if you were Darry?

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4. The author used foreshadowing with the cliffhanger at the end of the chapter. Explain. Predict what might happen later in the story.

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 4 p. 53-67

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Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. In Chapter 2 the author used foreshadowing to suggest that Johnny might kill someone. Re-read the section in which Ponyboy described to Cherry how Johnny had been beaten up by Socs. Find the excerpt that foreshadowed the events in Chapter 4.

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2. Do you think that Johnny was justified in killing Bob? Give your reasons.

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3. Explain why the boys turned to Dally for help. In what ways did Dally aid them?

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4. Ponyboy had always dreamed of going to the country. What was his reaction when he finally arrived there?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

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Chapter 5 p. 68-84

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Ponyboy resisted having his hair cut. Why, do you think, did the greasers place such high value on their hair?

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2. In what way did Johnny compare Dally to the Southern gentlemen in *Gone with the Wind*?

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3. Explain the significance of Robert Frost's poem.

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4. How did Bob's murder affect the relationship between the Socs and the greasers? What surprising news did Dally give Johnny and Ponyboy about Cherry?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 6 p. 85-99

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Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why did Johnny decide to turn himself in to the police?

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2. Describe how Johnny and Ponyboy acted heroically. Why didn't they take Dally's advice?

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3. Why did Dally suddenly enter the burning building? Why did he hit Ponyboy? How do we know this if Ponyboy, the narrator, was unconscious?

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4. What made Ponyboy realize at last that Darry loved him? Explain what he meant by "I was finally home to stay."

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

## Chapter 7 p.100-118

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. What bad news did Ponyboy and his brothers learn about Johnny's condition?

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2. The newspaper article praised the actions of Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dallas; however, something in the column about him, Soda, and Darry disturbed Ponyboy. Explain.

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3. According to Randy, what did most of the Socs want from their parents?

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4. Why did Randy decide not to participate in the rumble?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 8 p. 119-130

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why was it important that Johnny be able to see *Gone With the Wind* when he awoke?

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2. Do you agree with Johnny's decision not to see his mother?

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3. Judge the following statement: "The only thing that keeps Darry from bein' a Soc is us."

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4. What qualities did Cherry admire both in Bob and in Dally?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 9 p. 131-149

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Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Compare the greasers with Tim Shepard's gang and the gang from Brumly.

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2. Why did Darry feel hatred for Paul Holden? How did Ponyboy react to that hatred?

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3. Who won the rumble? How was the winner determined?

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4. Just before he died, Johnny said, "Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold..." What did he mean?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 10

p. 150-160

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Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Ponyboy commented, "Johnny was dead. But he wasn't." Explain.

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2. What did Ponyboy mean when he said, "It was only yesterday...but yesterday was years ago. A lifetime ago"?

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3. Why did Dally want to be dead?

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4. Why did Ponyboy want to know if he had asked for Darry while he was sick?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 11 p. 161-166

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why did Ponyboy hope Bob's parents hated him and the other greasers?

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2. Guess why Randy came to visit Ponyboy.

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3. Why did Ponyboy try to assume responsibility for the stabbing death of Bob?

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4. What was significant about Darry calling Ponyboy "little buddy"?

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# Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapter 12 p.167-180

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Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

1. Why was Two-Bit relieved when Ponyboy picked up the broken glass?

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2. Why did Soda bolt from the room when Ponyboy and Darry were arguing?

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3. Soda's heartfelt comments helped Ponyboy come to an important realization about his relationship with Darry. Explain.

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4. How did Johnny's letter affect Ponyboy's choice of a theme for his English paper?

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