



THE OUTSIDERS: DISCUSSION GUIDE #1

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.



CHAPTERS 1-2

Comprehension:

- Who are the greasers?
- Who are the Socs?
- Who is Ponyboy Curtis?
- What happened to Ponyboy's parents? Who does he live with now?
- Why is it dangerous for Ponyboy to walk alone at night?
- Who is Johnny? What recently happened to him?
- What does Soda tell Ponyboy about Darry that Ponyboy has a hard time believing?
- Why do Cherry and Marcia invite Ponyboy and Johnny to sit with them at the drive-in?
- What does Cherry tell Ponyboy about the Socs?

Text Analysis:

- How is Ponyboy's relationship with his brother Darry different from his relationship with his brother Sodapop?
- In Chapter 1, Ponyboy says, "I lie to myself all the time." What does he mean by this?

Personal Connection:

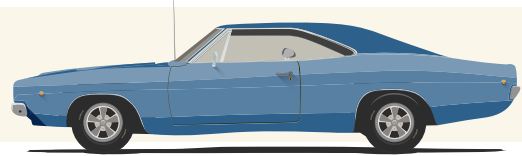
- ◆ Chapters 1 and 2 lay out the underlying and ever-present tension between the greasers and the Socs due to their class differences. What are some social differences or divisions that exist among the teens that you know? What do they have in common with the greasers and/or the Socs?



THE OUTSIDERS: DISCUSSION GUIDE #1

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

CHAPTERS 3-4



Comprehension: _____

- According to Cherry, what is the main difference between the greasers and the Socs?
- What happened to Soda's horse?
- Why does Ponyboy want to go live in the country?
- What happens that causes Ponyboy to run away?
- Who comes looking for Johnny and Pony in the park? Why?
- What do the Socs attempt to do to Ponyboy? Are they successful?
- Who do Pony and Johnny go to for help? How does he help them?

Text Analysis: _____

- What does the story about Mickey Mouse show about Ponyboy's love for Sodapop?
- **Situational irony** is a term that refers to an unexpected twist or turn of events in a story. In Chapter 4, Ponyboy says "my dreams come true and I'm in the country." Why is this statement ironic?
- Authors use **foreshadowing** to give the reader a hint that something will happen later in the story. *The Outsiders* author S. E. Hinton uses this device frequently in the novel. Earlier in the novel, how did S.E. Hinton foreshadow that Johnny would use his switchblade later?
- When Ponyboy tells Johnny that Darry hit him, Johnny says "I think I like it better when the old man's hittin' me . . . At least then I know he knows who I am. I walk in that house, and nobody says anything. I walk out, and nobody says anything. I stay away all night, and nobody notices. At least you got Soda. I ain't got nobody." What information about Ponyboy and Johnny is revealed through this conversation?

Personal Connection: _____

- ◆ Do you think the advice Dally gives Ponyboy and Johnny is sound? Why or why not? What might you have told them to do if they had come to you in this situation?