



# THE OUTSIDERS: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

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 5-6

### Comprehension: \_\_\_\_\_

- How and why do Ponyboy and Johnny disguise themselves?
- Johnny compares Dally to the Southern gentlemen from *Gone with the Wind*. How does he believe Dally is similar to the gentlemen?
- What surprising news does Dally tell Johnny and Ponyboy about Cherry?
- What event is planned as a result of Bob's death?
- What does Johnny tell Ponyboy and Dally he wants to do that surprises them? What reasons does he give for this?
- How do Ponyboy and Johnny become heroes?
- What do Darry's tears finally make Ponyboy understand about Darry?

### Text Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_

- When Bob threatens to cut Ponyboy's hair, Ponyboy is alarmed and resists forcefully. He is also extremely upset when Johnny cuts and bleaches his hair to keep him safe. Why do you think Ponyboy's hair is so important to him?
- A **metaphor** is a figure of speech used to describe something in a way that is not literally true, but the comparison helps us understand the idea. In Chapter 6, Ponyboy says, "I had taken the long way around, but I was finally home. To stay." What does this metaphor mean?
- 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. How do Johnny's parents react to his running away and how did Hinton foreshadow that this would be their reaction earlier in the story?

### Personal Connection: \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ Johnny surprises Ponyboy with his deep understanding of the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay." Based on the boys' interpretation of the poem, what are some things that you would consider "gold"? Explain your answer.



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## CHAPTERS 7-8

### Comprehension:

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- How do the boys get information about Johnny's condition after the fire? What do they learn?
- What does the newspaper say about Ponyboy and Johnny? What does Ponyboy learn from reading the article?
- Why does Darry always leave the front door of the Curtis home unlocked?
- According to Randy, what caused Bob to behave the way he did?
- What happens when Johnny's mother arrives at the hospital?
- Why does Ponyboy believe that Cherry is a traitor?

### Text Analysis:

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- What qualities does Cherry admire both in Bob and in Dally? How are the boys similar? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.
- Ponyboy says "We needed Johnny as much as he needed the gang. And for the same reason." What does Ponyboy mean? Why do the greasers need Johnny? Why does Johnny need the gang?
- How does Ponyboy's conversation with Randy change his perspective on the Socs and the feud between the two gangs?

### Personal Connection:

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- ◆ In Chapter 8, Ponyboy muses that if Darry didn't have the gang and his brothers to raise, he would be a Soc. In this way, Ponyboy acknowledges how much Darry has given up for his siblings and the greasers. Do you think this sacrifice (choosing to raise his brothers and support the gang at the expense of his personal goals, such as college) was the right choice for Darry? Explain. What would you do if you were in Darry's situation?