



# THE OUTSIDERS: DISCUSSION GUIDE #3

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 9-10



### Comprehension:

- How does Ponyboy feel before the rumble?
- There are different greaser gangs that fight together in the rumble. How is Tim Sheppard's gang different from Ponyboy's gang?
- Who is Paul Holden? What is the connection between him and Darry?
- Which group wins the rumble?
- What are the effects of the injury Ponyboy suffers in the rumble?
- What happens after Dally learns about Johnny's death?

### Text Analysis:

- Ponyboy understands that in his neighborhood, "young hoods. . . would grow up to be old hoods." However, he doesn't think this will happen to him and Darry. Why doesn't Ponyboy see himself as a "hood"? Why is Ponyboy certain that neither he nor Darry will become hoods?
- A **theme** is a universal message explored throughout a work of literature. How does the fight between Darry and Paul Holden help to explore the theme of hostility between different social classes?
- An **allusion** is an implied or indirect reference, especially in literature. Johnny's last words to Ponyboy are an allusion. What does he say, and what does he mean by this allusion?

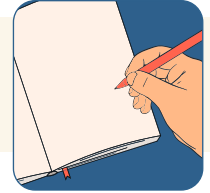
### Personal Connection:

- ◆ Ponyboy doesn't really like fighting and only thinks it's okay in cases of self-defense, but he feels obligated to participate in the rumble anyway. Can you think of a situation in a movie, TV show, or real life where someone didn't want to do something but did it anyway because they felt like they had to in order to be a good friend? Explain.



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## CHAPTERS 11-12

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

- What does Ponyboy do to pass the time while he recovers?
- What happens to Ponyboy's life as a result of his concussion and recent trauma?
- In Chapter 12, Ponyboy learns the real reason that Sandy went to Florida. Why did she go, and what does this explain about Sodapop's recent behavior?
- Why do Darry and Ponyboy promise not to fight anymore?
- When Ponyboy opens his copy of *Gone With The Wind*, a note falls out. What does the note say?
- What opportunity does Ponyboy's teacher give him to save his failing grade?

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

- What is meaningful about the last sentence of the novel?
- After threatening the Socs with a broken bottle, Ponyboy picks up the pieces of glass in the street. Why does he do this? What is unusual about this behavior? Why is Two-Bit so relieved when Ponyboy does this?
- When Randy comes to visit Ponyboy while he recovers, Ponyboy tells him, "I had the knife. I killed Bob," and "Johnny is not dead." Why does Ponyboy say this, and what effect does it create?

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

- ◆ Ponyboy acknowledges that his English teacher cares about him and seems genuinely interested in him as a person. Have you ever felt this way about any of the teachers, coaches, or other adults who fill similar roles in your life? How did it affect your relationship with them? Did their interest in you make you want to work harder for them?