Activity 9: Reading Guide (Chapters 10-12)

1. After Dallas confronts the police at the vacant lot, why does Ponyboy say, "I knew that was what Dallas wanted."?

2. Why doesn’t Ponyboy want to think about Dallas or Johnny?

3. How does looking at an old school yearbook affect Ponyboy?

4. In their conversation, what worries do Randy and Ponyboy confess to each other?

5. Why does Ponyboy insist that Johnny is not dead?

6. What is the outcome of the hearing?

7. Why does Two-Bit tell Ponyboy, "You’re not like the rest of us and don’t try to be…"?

8. What does Ponyboy realize about his past relationship with Sodapop?

9. How does Johnny’s note help change Ponyboy’s attitude toward himself, his future, and his friends?
Activity 10: Point of View

Ponyboy gives you his opinions about the other characters in *The Outsiders*. What is his reaction to each of the characters listed below? Put an “X” on the line next to the word that best describes Ponyboy’s attitude toward each character.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Resentment</th>
<th>Love</th>
<th>Disinterest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sodapop</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Two-Bit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darry</td>
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<td>Randy</td>
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<td>Bob</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Choose a character whose name is listed above. Tell how Ponyboy’s attitude toward that character changes during the course of the novel.

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What kind of attitude does Ponyboy have toward himself? Give your impression of Ponyboy’s ideas about himself as a person.

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Activity 11: Cause and Effect

Circle the letter of the statement that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. Darry was strict with Ponyboy because
   a. Ponyboy was always in trouble.
   b. he feared that Ponyboy would be put into a foster home.
   c. Darry was bitter about giving up the scholarship.

2. The Greasers resented the Socs because the Socs
   a. had advantages like nice clothes and flashy cars.
   b. made better grades in school.
   c. didn't like to watch sunsets.

3. Johnny killed Bob because he
   a. knew Bob was the Soc who had beaten him.
   b. was so frightened that he lost control of himself.
   c. feared that the Socs would drown Ponyboy in the fountain.

4. Johnny and Ponyboy went to the church on Jay Mountain because
   a. they were unhappy with their home life.
   b. Dallas insisted that they do so.
   c. they feared what would happen when the police caught them.

5. Randy did not take part in the rumble because he
   a. knew the rumble would accomplish nothing.
   b. was afraid of what the Greaser would do to him.
   c. didn't want to be a Soc anymore.

6. Ponyboy and Two-Bit were disgusted with Johnny's mother because
   a. she made a scene in front of the nurses.
   b. she had never shown any love and concern for Johnny.
   c. she told them, "It's all your fault."

7. Ponyboy claimed that he, not Johnny, had killed Bob because
   a. he wanted to save Johnny from going to jail.
   b. the confession made him appear tough.
   c. he was unable to face everything that had happened to him.
Activity 12: Theme

Johnny’s letter to Ponyboy states, “There’s still lots of good in the world.” Which of the following events from the novel seem to prove Johnny’s belief? Put an “X” on the blanks next to the statements that do.

___ 1. Dally’s robbery of the grocery store
___ 2. Johnny’s decision to turn himself in for the sake of a friend
___ 3. Cherry’s and Randy’s truthful testimony at the hearing
___ 4. Johnny’s beating by Bob
___ 5. the advice Two-Bit gives Ponyboy about not getting tough
___ 6. Randy’s decision not to take part in the rumble
___ 7. the sacrifices Darry made for his younger brothers
___ 8. the rumble fought by the Greasers and Socs
___ 9. Sodapop’s loss of Mickey Mouse
___ 10. the Greasers’ behavior at the church fire

In Robert Frost’s poem, Nothing Gold Can Stay, the poem presents a theme much different than Johnny’s belief while in the hospital. What is the theme to the poem and how does it relate to the Greasers’ lifestyle?

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Activity 13: Sequence of Events

Some of the events Ponyboy tells you about in *The Outsiders* happened before the novel opens. Place an “x” next to each of the listed events that happened before the novel begins.

____ 1. Johnny is badly beaten by the Socs.
____ 2. Darry slaps Ponyboy.
____ 3. Randy visits Ponyboy at the Curtis house.
____ 4. Mickey Mouse is sold by his owner.
____ 5. The Socs and Greasers fight in a rumble.
____ 6. Cherry acts as a "go-between" for the Socs and Greasers.
____ 7. Dally holds up a grocery store.
____ 8. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis die in a car accident.
____ 9. Dally spends three years in New York City.
____ 10. Newspaper articles call Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dallas "heroes."
____ 11. Ponyboy finds Johnny’s letter in a copy of *Gone with the Wind*.
____ 12. Sodapop quits school.
____ 13. The judge acquits Ponyboy.
____ 14. Darry gives up his college scholarship.

What was the purpose of the information S.E. Hinton gave you about characters that took place before the novel opens? In other words, what purpose does flashbacks and memories serve to a reader of a novel?

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Activity 14: Vocabulary

Read each of the following sentences. Decide which of the words from the list best completes the meaning of each sentence. Write this word on the line provided.

Word List

cheerleader  gallantly  predicted  conform  guardian
premonition  contact  incredulous  recurring  contempt
inhalation  rumble  emotional  madras  unofficial

1. Ponyboy believed that despite everything, Dally had died ________________.

2. Darry was Sodapop and Ponyboy’s ________________.

3. Unlike the Socs who were cool and aloof, the greasers were ________________.

4. At the beginning of the novel, the Greasers and Socs regarded one another with ________________.

5. One reason for a person’s belonging to a group is his or her need to ________________.

6. To Ponyboy, ________________ shirts symbolized the wealth and advantages of the Socs.

7. At the hospital, Ponyboy was treated for smoke ________________.

8. Ponyboy’s ________________ dream worried Darry.

9. None of the Greasers could have ________________ that gentle Johnny would kill a Soc.

10. Before the rumble Cherry served as ________________ go-between for the two gangs.

11. Ponyboy’s ________________ that something would happen became a reality.

12. Shocked and ________________, the Greasers watched as Dally was shot by the police.
Activity 15: Point of View

1. Ponyboy's attitude toward Darry changed when he discovered that

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2. One reason that Johnny was special to the Greasers was their realization that

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3. Ponyboy's attitude toward Sodapop changed when he discovered that

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4. Ponyboy learned from Cherry and Randy that

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5. By the end of the novel, Ponyboy thought of himself as

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