

# Reading Comprehension Questions



## S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Outsiders* Discussion Questions for Chapter 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** On the space provided, write the correct response for each question.

1. Briefly describe Ponyboy Curtis. What character attributes can you infer Ponyboy has since he went to the movie theater alone?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe the two gangs. What are their names and what type of people are affiliated with each gang?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who keeps Ponyboy from getting into major trouble?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. As Ponyboy walks home from the movies, what does he begin fearing? How does his fear become a reality?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Of Ponyboy's friends, who has been beat up by the Socs before? Why does this past event make Ponyboy especially fearful of being jumped by the Socs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. When Ponyboy is jumped by the Socs, who comes to rescue him? Briefly describe the rescue.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. After being jumped by the Socs, why doesn't Ponyboy cry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Following the incident, why is Darry mad at Ponyboy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What do Dally and a few other boys decide to do the next night?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Later at home, what do Soda and Ponyboy talk about?

## **TEACHER ANSWERS**

### ***The Outsiders Discussion Questions for Chapter 1***

1. Briefly describe Ponyboy Curtis. What character attributes can you infer Ponyboy has since he went to the movie theater alone?

*Ponyboy is the main character, the protagonist, of the novel. He is a member of the Greaser gang. The fact that he went to watch a Paul Newman movie alone at the theater tells us that although he is young, he is confident enough to strike out on his own. Additionally, we learn that he likes the movies because he really wants to absorb what he's watching which tells us that perhaps he likes to think about the film instead of just observe it. From this we can infer that he's a bit of an intellectual.*

2. Describe the two gangs. What are their names and what type of people are affiliated with each gang?

*One of the gangs is known as the Greasers. They're called the Greasers because of the way they slick their hair with grease. They're also of the lower social-economic groups. They're a gang of East Side kids who do things like steal and get in fights. The Socials or Socs live on the opposite end of the spectrum. They're wealthy kids who have everything and live on the West Side. Both gangs compete against each other.*

3. Who keeps Ponyboy from getting into major trouble?

*Although Ponyboy has lost his parents, he lives with his brothers Soda and Darrel. Darrel, otherwise known as Darry, is the eldest and is a strong, authority figure. He's strict with Ponyboy and makes sure he stays on the correct path that isn't as troubled as the lives of other Greasers.*

4. As Ponyboy walks home from the movies, what does he begin fearing? How does his fear become a reality?

*Ponyboy comes to the realization that he shouldn't be walking home alone, after all there are Socs out there who could come out to get him. A little while after he becomes fearful, his fear becomes reality when a red Corvair approaches him. Socs exit out of the car and begin to beat him up.*

5. Of Ponyboy's friends, who has been beat up by the Socs before? Why does this past event make Ponyboy especially fearful of being jumped by the Socs?

*Another young member of the gang, Johnny Cade, was beat up one time by the Socs. He was beat so hard that he was later found half conscious. Ponyboy fears that the Socs are capable of doing the same thing to him.*

6. When Ponyboy is jumped by the Socs, who comes to rescue him? Briefly describe the rescue.

*The gang of Greasers that Ponyboy is a member of comes to Ponyboy's rescue. They include his older brother Darry, and his other brother Sodapop. They come just on time since Ponyboy hasn't a chance against the Socs. One Soc sat on Ponyboy and another Soc even threatened Ponyboy with a knife.*

7. After being jumped by the Socs, why doesn't Ponyboy cry?

*Ponyboy is embarrassed to cry in front of his brother, Darry. Soda makes him feel better and luckily, Ponyboy is able to fight back the tears.*

8. Following the incident, why is Darry mad at Ponyboy?

*Darry thinks that Ponyboy lacks common sense for walking around alone unprotected. Ponyboy set himself up for this situation to occur. He got lucky that the gang came to his rescue on time.*

9. What do Dally and a few other boys decide to do the next night?

*Dally, Johnny, and Ponyboy make plans to go watch a double-feature at the drive-in movie theater.*

### **TEACHER ANSWERS (CONTINUED)**

**10.** Later at home, what do Soda and Ponyboy talk about?

*Soda talks about his girlfriend Sandy with Ponyboy. Ponyboy likes Sandy especially since she too is a Greaser. Soda reveals his plan to ask Sandy to marry him, but Ponyboy wants him to wait for marriage because he needs Soda at home.*