

Name: KEN

Block: _____

The Outsiders Study Guide

CHARACTERS: Be sure that you are familiar with all of the following characters.

Ponyboy Curtis
Sodapop Curtis
Darry Curtis

Johnny Cade
Two-Bit Matthews
Steve Randle

Dally Winston
Tim Shephard
Bob Sheldon

Cherry Valance
Randy Adderson
Paul Holden

QUOTES: Be familiar with these parts from the story. LABEL who said the quote, and be sure you know what was going on in this scene and how this is important to the novel overall.

"Ponyboy, sometimes you just don't use your head." - Darry

"When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home..." - Ponyboy

"You'd better wise up, Pony... you get tough like me and you don't get hurt. You look out for yourself and nothin' can touch you..." - Dally

"Greasers will still be greasers and Socs will still be Socs. Sometimes I think it's the ones in the middle that are really the lucky stiffs." - Randy

"Greaser didn't have anything to do with it... It's the individual," - Ponyboy

"I'll bet you think the Socs have it made. The rich kids, the West-side Socs. I'll tell you something, Ponyboy, and it may come as a surprise. We have troubles you've never even heard of. You want to know something? ... Things are rough all over." - Cherry

"Ponyboy, listen, don't get tough. You're not like the rest of us and don't try to be." - Two-Bit

"If you don't have anything, you end up like Dallas... and I don't mean dead either. I mean like he was before. And that's worse than dead." - Sodapop

CONFLICTS: Be aware of the following conflicts in the story and how each is resolved.

- Pony vs. Darry - Pony doesn't believe that Darry cares about him until he sees Darry crying at the hospital when they reunite.
- Greasers vs. Socs - This conflict never fully gets resolved, but the Greasers do feel pride when they beat the Socs at the rumble.
- Pony's Internal Conflict - Pony struggles with how to be a greaser and how to be true to himself. He ends up using his voice to write a story about his greaser friend.

LITERARY TERMS: Label each quote/item with its appropriate literary term.

Protagonist --- Antagonist --- Foreshadowing --- Situation Irony --- Verbal Irony --- Metaphor

- Ponyboy Curtis - Protagonist
- The Socs - Antagonist
- "I wondered what it would be like to be a burning ember." - Metaphor
- "Quiet, soft-spoken little Johnny, who wouldn't hurt a living thing on purpose, had taken a human life." - Situational Irony
- "He's so greasy, instead of going to the barber to get a haircut, he goes to get an oil change!" - Verbal Irony
- "We were careful with our cigarettes - If that old church ever caught fire, there'd be no stopping it." - Foreshadowing

DO YOU REMEMBER? Look back for the following answers in case you missed them the first time!

- When Randy visits Ponyboy after the rumble, who does Pony say that killed Bob?
Pony tells Randy that he (Pony) killed Bob.
- What is the difference between tough and tuff?
Rough / Cool/Sharp
- What did Bob always want from his parents?
To be told no
- Why doesn't Dally want Johnny to turn himself in to the police?
He didn't want Johnny to get hardened.
- What is so different between Pony and his gang vs. Tim Shephard and the Brumly boys?
Tim Shephard and the Brumly boys would be hooded all their life.
- Who does Johnny idolize?
Dally
- During which decade does *The Outsiders* take place?
The 1960's

THE POEM AND OVERALL THEMES: List some possible themes to the book and be familiar with the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay"

- Be true to who you are
- Don't stereotype based on labels
- Family is important to everyone