

# **THE OUTSIDERS**

## **COMPREHENSION CHECK QUESTIONS: CHAPTERS 10, 11, 12**

### **Chapter Ten**

**1. Dally runs out “like the devil was after him” when he finds out Johnny is dead. According to Pony, why is Dally having so much trouble handling Johnny’s death?**

*Johnny was the only one he truly connected with and the only thing Dally loved; they were best friends.*

**2. When Dally phones, what is his message?**

*He calls to tell them that he has just robbed a grocery store and the cops are after him. They need to hide him, so meet him at the lot in a minute.*

**3. According to Ponyboy, Johnny died gallant. What does he mean? What is different about the death of Dally?**

*Johnny died as the result of trying to save some innocent kids from a fire. Dally died in a negative light, after committing a crime. Dally dies a hoodlum in the eyes of the public, instead of a hero like Johnny.*

**4. Why do you think Ponyboy becomes so sick? What are his symptoms?**

*He is exhausted and hasn’t been eating the way he should. He is also pushing himself too hard, and going beyond the limits of sensibility because he also had a concussion. He is lightheaded, weak, tired, dizzy, nauseated, feverish, delirious, etc.*

**5. The narrator writes, “And the ground rushed up to meet me very suddenly.” What really happened?**

*He had fainted.*

**6. Why is Ponyboy worried about whether or not he asked for Darry while he was in the hospital?**

*He doesn’t want to hurt Darry. He hopes that his subconscious mind wants him, even if he isn’t aware enough of what he is doing to ask for him purposely.*

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### **Chapter Eleven**

**1. After Ponyboy studies the picture of Bob in the yearbook, what conclusions does he make about him?**

*He realizes that he was a real person—a reckless, hot-tempered boy, cocky and scared stiff at the same time.*

**2. What was Randy’s purpose in visiting Pony? What was the outcome of their conversation?**

*He wanted talk to Pony about going to see the judge tomorrow. He also wanted to make sure that Pony realized it was not him who killed Bob, but Johnny, and to tell him that Johnny only did what he did in self-defense.*

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**3. Why do you think Ponyboy insists that he is the one who killed Bob and keeps saying that Johnny isn't dead?**

*He is in denial about Johnny's death. He is trying to protect his honor.*

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### **Chapter Twelve**

**1. Why do you think the judge's line of questioning is so easy on Ponyboy? Why is he acquitted?**

*He knows that Pony has been quite ill and also that he didn't kill Bob. He doesn't want to make matters worse. The evidence pointed to the others and he was not under suspicion. He was not guilty.*

**2. What happens to Ponyboy's schoolwork, memory, and attitude about himself after the hearing? What opportunity does his teacher give him to make up for his problems in school?**

*He is so distracted, and so much has happened in his life that he can't concentrate on school, no matter how he feels about it. He becomes really absent-minded and runs into things, hardly eats, and basically gives up on life. His teacher tells him he can write a theme for extra credit.*

**3. Why does Soda bolt out the door?**

*The letter he wrote to Sandy has been returned unopened and he is upset about it.*

**4. What do we find out about the real reason that Sandy went to Florida?**

*He finds out that Sandy is pregnant by someone other than Soda.*

**5. After Pony and Darry go find Soda, the three of them talk. What is the result of their conversation?**

*Soda has been feeling like a middleman between his brothers and doesn't like it. The other two realize that they have been putting him in a bad position, and vow not to fight anymore.*

**6. What was in the note from Johnny that Ponyboy found when it fell out of his book?**

*It was a note telling Pony that he doesn't mind dying now, that saving those kids was worth it. He wants him to tell Dally that he needs to look at a sunset, and that there's still lots of good in the world. He was, of course, too late.*

**7. What does Ponyboy finally decide to write about in his theme?**

*He decides to write about his life experiences over the past several months, and *The Outsiders* is the product.*

**8. What is significant about the last sentence of the novel? Why?**

*It is the same as the first line of the book, and makes it clear that Pony has written the book for his English class.*