OUTSIDERS – Chapter 7

1. Describe what Soda is doing while the police are trying to interview Ponyboy.

2. What is the extent of Johnny’s injuries? How are the boys able to get the doctor to tell them of Johnny’s prognosis?

3. What does Ponyboy mean when he says, “If? Please, no, I thought. Please not ‘if’?”

4. Explain the reference to chocolate cake.

5. Why do the Curtis boys always leave their door unlocked?

6. What does the newspaper say about the “heroes”? What does Two-Bit have to say about the wording that the reporter chose?
7. Recount the story of Pony’s recurring dream.

8. What has happened to Soda’s girlfriend, Sandy? Why?

9. To what is Pony referring when he says, “…it’s time for those guys from the state to come by and check-up on us.”

10. Briefly describe the conversation between Randy and Ponyboy.

11. From their discussion, what did you learn about the privileged class to which the Socs belong? How do you think some people come to feel entitlement?

12. Randy says, “You get a little money and the whole world hates you.” Pony replies, “No, you hate the whole world.” Which of these statements, in your opinion, is true? Explain your answer.
OUTSIDERS – Chapter 8

1. What do you think the doctor means when he says to the nurse, “Let them go in. He’s been asking for them. It can’t hurt now”?

2. Why does Johnny really want to live, even though he has thought of suicide in the past, and he would never be able to walk again?

3. When the nurse announces to Johnny that his mother is there to see him, how does he react? When Two-Bit and Ponyboy see Johnny’s mother, what happens? How do they react?

4. When Dallys asks Two-Bit about his “fancy black-handled switch,” what do you think was his reason for asking? Why do you think Two-Bit hands it over to him “without hesitation”?

5. Pony had a sick feeling in his stomach about the rumble that night. Infer what you think he was worried about.
6. Cherry tells Ponyboy about the kind of person Bob “really” was. How does she describe him?

7. Cherry says about Bob, “He could be sweet sometimes, and friendly. But when he got drunk…it was that part of him that beat up Johnny.” Explain the differences between reason and excuse. Do you believe that if someone has been drinking, it is an excuse, or is it a reason, for inappropriate behavior? Try to use examples in your answer.
OUTSIDERS – Chapter 9

1. How do the boys show their excitement about the rumble when they are at the Curtis house getting ready to head out?

2. Pony thinks the only good reason to fight is…?

3. Pony believes that he and Darry are going to “get somewhere.” What does he mean by that? Do you believe they have any choice in the matter? Discuss in detail.

4. Why, according to Ponyboy, do people usually think that any trouble is the fault of the greasers and not the socs? In your opinion, is that a true assumption?

5. What are the rules for the rumble?

6. Who actually steps up to start the rumble? Who is his opponent and how does it happen that he is able to take the first swing? What is ironic about these two boys fighting against each other?
7. Which side wins the rumble? What determines the winner?

8. Where do the boys go as soon as the rumble ends? Convey what happens as they are on their way in Buck’s car. How do they manage to get let off by the police?

9. What were Johnny’s last words to Ponyboy? What do you think he meant?
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?

2. When Dally phones, what is his message?

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

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

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

6. Why is Ponyboy worried about whether or not he asked for Darry while he was in the hospital?
OUTSIDERS – Chapter 11

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

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

3. Why do you think Ponyboy insists that he is the one who killed Bob and keeps saying that Johnny isn’t dead?
OUTSIDERS – Chapter 12

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

2. What happens to Ponyboy’s schoolwork, memory, and attitude about himself after the hearing?

3. Why does Soda bolt out the door?

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

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

6. What was the note from Johnny that Ponyboy found when it fell out of his book?
7. What does Ponyboy finally decide to write about in his theme?

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