

## STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *The Outsiders*

### Chapters 1-2

1. Identify Darry, Soda and Ponyboy.
2. How are Greasers different from Socs?
3. Who were other members of Pony's gang?
4. What happened to Pony on his way home from the movies?
5. Who did Dally, Johnny and Ponyboy meet at the Nightly Double?
6. Contrast Dally's approach to Cherry and Marcia with Pony's, and contrast Cherry's response to Dally with her response to Pony.
7. Why were Cherry and Marcia alone at the drive-in?
8. Pony was somewhat surprised that he was getting along with Cherry and Marcia. Why?
9. What had happened to Johnny prior to the time of this story?

### Chapters 3-4

1. After talking with Cherry, what reason does Pony finally give for the separation between Greasers and Socs?
2. Who were Cherry and Marcia's boyfriends?
3. Why didn't the Socs and Greasers fight during their first encounter after the movie?
4. Why was Pony late coming home from the Nightly Double?
5. What caused Pony to "run away"?
6. What happened to Johnny and Ponyboy at the park?
7. To whom do Johnny and Pony turn for help after Johnny killed Bob? Why?
8. Why did Johnny and Pony go to Jay's Mountain?

### Chapters 5-6

1. Why was Pony upset about getting a haircut?
2. What was Johnny's favorite part of *Gone With the Wind*? Of whom did it remind him?
3. When Dally finally arrives at the church, what news does he bring?
4. What did Johnny announce after his fifth barbecue sandwich?
5. Describe Johnny's relationship with his parents.
6. What happened when Johnny, Pony and Dally returned to the church?

Chapters 7-9

1. What additional problem did the three brothers face after Pony's return?
2. Why did Randy want to talk to Pony?
3. When Johnny's mother came to visit him at the hospital, what was Johnny's reaction?
4. Why wouldn't Cherry go visit Johnny?
5. Compare and contrast the boys' reasons for fighting. (Darry, Steve, Soda and Two-Bit)
6. What did Pony say was the difference between Tim's gang and his?
7. Identify Paul Holden.
8. Who "won" the rumble?
9. Where did Dally take Pony after the rumble?
10. How do we know Dally felt at least partially responsible for Johnny's fate?
11. What advice did Dally give to Pony on the way to the hospital after the rumble?
12. What were Johnny's last words to Ponyboy?

Chapters 10-12

1. Of what did Pony try to convince himself on the way home from the hospital?
2. What did Pony decide was the reason Dally couldn't take Johnny's death?
3. Why did Dally rob the grocery store and then raise his unloaded gun to the police?
4. Why would Pony have thought he was in Windrixville while he was delirious?
5. What was Pony's reaction when Randy talked about Johnny?
6. What was the result of the court hearing?
7. How did Pony react to the three Socs who bullied him about killing Bob?
8. Johnny's note made several points. What were they?
9. How do we know Ponyboy will be all right?

# PREREADING VOCABULARY WORKSHEETS

VOCABULARY - *The Outsiders*

Chapters 1-3 Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. I have to be content with what I have.

---

2. I am a greaser and most of my neighborhood rarely bothers to get a haircut.

---

3. I thought I was the only person in the world that did. So I loned it.

---

4. Not like the Socs, who jump greasers and wreck houses and throw beer blasts for kicks, and get editorials in the paper for being a public disgrace one day and an asset to society the next.

---

5. I automatically hitched my thumbs in my jeans and slouched, wondering if I could get away if I made a break for it.

---

6. He had on a madras shirt.

---

7. He has dark-brown hair that kicks out in front and a slight cowlick in the back-just like Dad's...

---

8. I drew a quivering breath and quit crying.

---

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 1-2 Continued

9. Steve Randle was seventeen, tall and lean, with thick greasy hair he kept combed in complicated swirls.

---

10. "Sure," I said, trying for Soda's sake to keep the sarcasm out of my voice.

---

11. She gave him an incredulous look; and then she threw her Coke in his face.

---

12. "Okay," I said nonchalantly, "might as well."

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Part II: Determining the Meaning

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. content       | A. worth   |
| ___ 2. rarely        | B. indifferently                                 |
| ___ 3. loned         | C. tuft of hair growing in a different direction |
| ___ 4. asset         | D. unbelieving                                   |
| ___ 5. slouched      | E. trembling, shaking                            |
| ___ 6. madras        | F. bitter cutting jest                           |
| ___ 7. cowlick       | G. by oneself                                    |
| ___ 8. quivering     | H. an ungainly gait                              |
| ___ 9. complicated   | I. satisfied, pleased                            |
| ___ 10. sarcasm      | J. uncommon, infrequent                          |
| ___ 11. incredulous  | K. involved, complex                             |
| ___ 12. nonchalantly | L. cotton fabric shirt usually bright colored    |

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 3-4

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. You're more emotional. We're sophisticated - cool to the point of not feeling anything.

---

2. "And," Two-Bit added grimly, "A few other of the socially elite checkered-shirt set."

---

3. "Well," Cherry said resignedly, "they've spotted us."

---

4. My teeth chattered unceasingly and I couldn't stop them.

---

5. Buck . . . made most of his money on fixed races and a little bootlegging.

---

6. He was pretty well crocked, which made me apprehensive.

---

7. "Oh, shoot, kid" -Dally glanced contemptuously over his shoulder-"I was in the bedroom."

---

8. He winced at the pain in his legs.

---

9. . . . I thought with a bewildering feeling of being rushed, things are happening too quick.

---

10. But this church gave me a kind of creepy feeling. What do you call it? Premonition?

---

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 3-4 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| ___ 13. sarcasm        | A. to shrink back as from pain                 |
| ___ 14. incredulous    | B. confused, perplexed                         |
| ___ 15. nonchalantly   | C. scornful, insolent                          |
| ___ 16. sophisticated  | D. giving up, accepting the future             |
| ___ 17. elite          | E. bitter cutting jest                         |
| ___ 18. resignedly     | F. cultured, worldly                           |
| ___ 19. unceasingly    | G. indifferently                               |
| ___ 20. bootlegging    | H. previous warning, information, feeling      |
| ___ 21. apprehensive   | I. unbelieving                                 |
| ___ 22. contemptuously | J. continual                                   |
| ___ 23. winced         | K. a select body, the best                     |
| ___ 24. bewildering    | L. afraid, suspicious                          |
| ___ 25. premonition    | M. selling alcohol where not legally available |

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 5-6

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. I had never slept so soundly. I was still groggy.

---

2. "Gee, thanks." I put the book down reluctantly. I wanted to start it right then.

---

3. I looked at Johnny imploringly.

---

4. I leaned back next to him sullenly. "I guess so."

---

5. I was trying to find the meaning the poet had in mind, but it eluded me.

---

6. And it suddenly became real and vital.

---

7. "You're starved?" Johnny was so indignant he nearly squeaked.

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8. Johnny and I gorged on barbecue sandwiches and banana splits.

---

9. "I was scared," Johnny said with conviction.

---

10. You just keeled over from smoke inhalation and a little shock . . . .

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Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 5-6 Continued

Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.

- |                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| ___ 26. groggy      | A. strong belief                   |
| ___ 27. reluctantly | B. essential, necessary to life    |
| ___ 28. imploringly | C. escaped, avoided                |
| ___ 29. sullenly    | D. swallow with greediness         |
| ___ 30. eluded      | E. beseechingly                    |
| ___ 31. vital       | F. not fully awake                 |
| ___ 32. indignant   | G. to breathe into the lungs       |
| ___ 33. gorged      | H. gloomily, somber                |
| ___ 34. conviction  | I. unwillingly, struggling against |
| ___ 35. inhalation  | J. disgusted, anger with contempt  |

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 7-8

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. He'd . . . walk around interviewing the nurses and mimicking T.V. reporters.

---

2. . . . it stopped recurring so often, but it happened often enough for Darry to take me to a doctor.

---

3. "Work?" Two-Bit was aghast. "And ruin my rep?"

---

4. Two-Bit was telling me about one of his many exploits while we did the dishes.

---

5. Turning abruptly, he said, "Let's go see Dallas."

---

6. She was a little woman, with straight black hair and big, black eyes like Johnny's. But that was as far as the resemblance went.

---

7. I could tell that he was debating whether to tell Dally the truth or not.

---

8. It was the reward of two hours of walking aimlessly around a hardware store to divert suspicion.

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Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 7-8 Continued

9. Tim grinned ruefully probably thinking of his roughneck, hard-headed brother.

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10. We mostly stuck with our own outfits, so I was a little leery of going over to him.

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Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.

- |                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ___ 36. mimicking   | A. heroic acts, adventures            |
| ___ 37. recurring   | B. regretfully, sorrowfully           |
| ___ 38. aghast      | C. wary, suspicious                   |
| ___ 39. exploits    | D. likeness, similarity               |
| ___ 40. abruptly    | E. without direction, without purpose |
| ___ 41. resemblance | F. imitating, ridiculing              |
| ___ 42. debating    | G. returning, repeatedly              |
| ___ 43. aimlessly   | H. suddenly                           |
| ___ 44. ruefully    | I. deciding                           |
| ___ 45. leery       | J. amazed, stupefied                  |

Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 10-12

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. Dally had taken the car and I started the long walk home in a stupor, Johnny was dead.

---

2. He died violent and young and desperate, just like we all knew he'd die someday.

---

3. But I had a sick feeling that maybe I hadn't called for him while I was delirious, maybe I had only wanted Sodapop to be with me.

---

4. Soda never has grasped the importance Darry and I put on athletics.

---

5. He grinned but didn't deny it.

---

6. I'd rather have anybody's hate than their pity.

---

7. "Yes, sir," looking straight at the judge, not flinching;

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8. Then he said I was acquitted and the whole case was closed.

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Vocabulary - *The Outsiders* Chapters 10-12 Continued

9. He veered off to the right, but I caught him in a flying tackle before he'd gone more than a couple of steps.

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Part II: Determining the Meaning -- Match the vocabulary words to their definitions.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| ___ 46. stupor      | A. confusedly   |
| ___ 47. delirious   | B. swerved, turned aside from a course or direction             |
| ___ 48. grasped     | C. driven to take any risk                                      |
| ___ 49. acquitted   | D. to declare untrue; contradict                                |
| ___ 50. desperate   | E. understood   |
| ___ 51. bewilderdly | F. senses are deadened  |
| ___ 52. deny        | G. discharged completed, set free from a legal charge           |
| ___ 53. pity        | H. betraying fear, pain or surprise with an involuntary gesture |
| ___ 54. flinching   | I. compassion for suffering                                     |
| ___ 55. veered      | J. confusion, disordered speech, hallucinations                 |