The Outsiders
Study Guide
Chapters 1-2

1. Identify Darry, Soda and Ponyboy.
They are orphaned brothers who live alone on the East Side. They are "Greasers,"
members of a gang of friends who look out for each other.

2. How are Greasers different from Socs?
Greasers are from the east side of town. They are poor and usually in trouble with the
law. Socs (Socials) are from the west side of town. They come from wealthy families and
have fancy cars and parties.

3. Who were other members of Pony's gang?
Darry, Soda, Two-Bit, Johnny, Dally, and Steve

4. What happened to Pony on his way home from the movies?
He was jumped by some Socs. He was not seriously injured because his friends came
along and ran off the Socs.

5. Who did Dally, Johnny and Ponyboy meet at the Nightly Double?
They met Cherry and Marcia, two Soc girls.

6. Contrast Dally's approach to Cherry and Marcia with Pony's, and contrast Cherry's response
to Dally with her response to Pony.
Dally was rude, crude, foul-mouthed and annoying to the girls. Pony was polite, sensitive
and rather soft-spoken. Cherry insulted and rejected Dally but accepted Pony's friendship.

7. Why were Cherry and Marcia alone at the drive-in?
The girls had a fight with their boyfriends, who left.

8. Pony was somewhat surprised that he was getting along with Cherry and Marcia. Why?
They were Socs; he was a Greaser. No Soc girls had ever spoken to him except to insult
him.

9. What had happened to Johnny prior to the time of this story?
He had been jumped and beaten by a group of Socs who came from a blue Mustang.
Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues

Directions: 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.

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 editorial 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.

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."
Part II: Determining the Meaning

Directions: 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.

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