

CHAPTER 1: NEVER WALK ALONE

Discussion Prompt: How does Ponyboy's point of view influence how events in this passage are described? What can you determine about Ponyboy's character based on the way he talks about the Socs and the greasers? Do you think this description would sound different if one of his brother's was narrating? How so?

1. How does the girl in Ponyboy's class react when he uses a switchblade to dissect a worm? How does Ponyboy feel, and what does this reveal about his character?

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19-18

Reread the paragraph in which Ponyboy describes Two-Bit at length. What are some of the words and phrases he uses that sound the way a teen might actually talk at that time?

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3. Why is it useless to attempt to retaliate against the Socs?

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4. Ponyboy does not like Dally, but he respects him because he is "smart." What does Ponyboy mean by "smart," and how does it differ from Ponyboy's own intelligence?

CHAPTER 2: DRIVE-IN CONFESSIONS

Discussion Prompt: What can you determine about Johnny's character based on the story he tells about getting jumped? In what ways was getting jumped by Socs more affecting to Johnny than enduring violence at home? Why do you think Ponyboy says Johnny could "take" getting killed but not getting scared?

1. Consider Dally's relationship with Johnny. How does Dally treat Johnny differently, and why?

2. In what ways do Two-Bit and Marcia get along? Does their connection come as a surprise? Why or why not?

3. Reread the passage in which Ponyboy remembers when Steve's female cousin from Kansas visited. How did the gang choose to treat her? Why?

4. Based on what you've read so far, what distinguishes Cherry's character from other girls her age? How is she different from a typical teenage girl in the 1960s?

5. Reread the second-to-last paragraph of Chapter 2. Ponyboy doesn't know what Socs worry about. What words does he repeat, and what does this repetition say about Ponyboy's point of view?

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