

## CHAPTERS 7–9: A Rumble and a Death

**Discussion Prompt:** Why do you think Randy confides in Ponyboy? How does Randy's confiding help Ponyboy understand what Cherry meant by "Things are rough all over"? Discuss the value of that understanding in *The Outsiders* and in your own experience, citing examples.

### CLOSE READ

1. Why could Darry have been a Soc if not for the gang?

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2. What does Johnny mean when he says "stay gold" right before he dies?

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3. Why do you think Dally is "raving" toward the end of Chapter 9? Why is Ponyboy so confused by his conduct?

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4. What does Two-Bit think is wrong with the headline "Juvenile Delinquents Turn Heroes"? How would you rewrite the headline to reflect the themes of *The Outsiders*?

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## CHAPTERS 10–11: Dally Gets What He Wants

**Discussion Prompt:** Ponyboy ends the novel with the same sentence that starts it. Why? Now that you have finished the entire book, what meaning do you see in this phrase? How has its significance changed from what it meant on page 1? How does it impact your feelings about The Outsiders?

### CLOSE READ

1. Why does Dally ultimately decide to rob the grocery store?

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2. Whose picture does Ponyboy see while going through Sodapop's old yearbook? Why doesn't he recognize the person immediately?

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3. Who does Ponyboy say killed Bob? Why?

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4. What effect could the upcoming trial have on the Curtis family? Why do you think it is so important for the boys to stay together?

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