

Comprehension Check

Chapters 7-9

Directions: Use the Comprehension Check questions below to help guide your understanding of all aspects of the novel. You may want to use these questions to help you as you take notes. After reading the given chapters, answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

Chapter Seven

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 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.

Chapter Eight

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 Dally 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"?

Name _____ Period _____

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.

Chapter Nine

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 both 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?