1. What does Cherry explain as the difference between the Socs and the greasers?

Cherry expresses that the greasers have a different set of values. She believes that the greasers are far more emotionally sensitive. She sees the socs, on the other hand, as a group who are generally not emotional because they hide behind a veil of cool sophistication. She says that socs are void of emotion, while the greasers often feel too violently.

2. What happens when Pony comes home after his curfew?

When Pony arrives home, he finds Darry is angrily waiting for him. An argument begins which leads to Darry slapping Ponyboy. Ponyboy says “Darry wheeled around and slapped me so hard that it knocked me against the floor” (50). Ponyboy is shocked, as it is the first time anyone in his family has ever slapped him. This event solidifies for Pony the idea that Darry doesn’t care about him, so he storms out and intends to run away.

3. Why does Johnny like it better when his father is hitting him?

Johnny shares this after he learns about Ponyboy’s fight with Darry. Johnny says that he prefers when his father is hitting him because it is at these times that he feels like his father knows he is there. He says “I walk out and nobody says anything. I stay away all night, and nobody notices” (51). This tells us that Johnny is often ignored by his parents, and Johnny would rather have his father give him any attention, even if it is negative.

4. To whom do Ponyboy and Johnny go for help? What does he give them? What does he tell them to do?

Ponyboy and Johnny decide to go to Dally for help since he has been in trouble with the law before. They find him at Buck Merril’s home. Dally gives the boys fifty dollars, a change of clothing for Pony who is wet from being drowned in the fountain, and a loaded gun. He advises the boys to take a train to Windrixville. He tells them that once they arrive they should find an abandoned church for refuge.

5. Why does Johnny react so violently to the Socs?

Johnny has been attacked by the socs in the past. This attack was very violent and left him with many injuries. One of his attackers wore rings which left him with many cuts. Ponyboy says “Johnny recognized them; he was watching the moonlight glint off Bob’s rings with huge eyes” (55). When the five boys show up to the park that night, the reader can infer that Bob may have
played a role in this attack as he is wearing rings. When the socs attack Pony, he snaps and protects Pony from the socs.

**Digging A Little Deeper Questions**

6. What does Ponyboy mean when he says “Johnny and I understood each other without saying anything?” Have you ever had a relationship with someone who you understood, or who understood you, without having to say anything? Why is that important?

Ponyboy says this to show the strong bond that he shares with Johnny. Although Johnny and Pony do not have long conversations, they understand each other completely.

7. What would your advice have been if Ponyboy and Johnny came to you for help instead of Dally?

(This answer is your own opinion.)

**Literary Devices Questions**

8. What types of conflict are used in these chapters? Explain.

**Person vs Person** – This type of conflict is most prominently demonstrated in these chapters at two points. Firstly, there is a continuing conflict between Ponyboy and Darry. This conflict comes to a head in these chapters when Darry hits Pony. The second person vs person conflict occurs between Johnny and Pony vs the socs. This conflict also results in crisis when the socs attack Pony and Johnny stabs Bob.