Chapter 7 - 8
Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What condition were Dally and Johnny in?
Ponyboy explains that Dally would be okay after a couple of days in the hospital. He says that for Dally, “one arm was badly burned and would be scarred for the rest of his life, but we would have full use of it in a couple of weeks” (102). As for Johnny, the prognosis was not as promising. He was in critical condition because “[h]is back had been broken when that piece of timber fell on him” (102). He also had third degree burns. The doctor was unsure if he would survive, but explains that he will be crippled if he does.

2. The doctor says that Johnny will be crippled if he survives. Why is this worse for Johnny than it would be for someone else?
While being crippled would be a terrible fate for anyone, Ponyboy explains that this is worse for Johnny not only because he would not be able to play football or join rumbles, but also because “[h]e’d have to stay in that house he hated, where he wasn’t wanted, and things could never be like they used to be” (103).

3. Why did Darry never lock the front door to the house and what does this say about the greasers?
Ponyboy explains that the greasers often stick their heads into each other’s houses and walk in without knocking. Although Darry was warned about burglars by Two-Bit’s mother, he keeps the door unlocked “in case one of the boys is hacked off at his parents and needs a place to lay over and cool off” (105).

4. How are Ponyboy, Johnny and Dally portrayed in the newspaper article?
The boys are portrayed as reformed juvenile delinquents who become heroes. The article explains how Ponyboy and Johnny “risked [their] lives saving those little kids” (107).

5. Why did everyone go silent when Pony asked Soda if he would take Sandy to the party?
Everyone goes silent because they know what happened between Sodapop and Sandy, but Ponyboy does not. It is revealed that Sandy’s “parents almost hit the roof at the idea of her marryin’ a sixteen-year-old kid.” (111).

6. What was Bob’s real problem, according to Randy?
According to Randy, Bob’s parents played a significant role in shaping his personality. He says his parents gave into him all the time. Bob “kept trying to make someone say ‘No’…to set limits” (116), but it never happened. Whenever Bob made a mistake, his parents always blamed themselves for his actions, so Bob continued to get himself in trouble.

7. Why doesn’t Johnny want to see his mother?
Johnny doesn’t want to see his mother because he thinks that she will blame him. He states that “[s]he’s probably come to tell me about all the trouble I’m causing her and
about how glad her and the old man'll be when I'm dead” (122). He feels no connection to his parents, and sees his greaser friends as his family.

8. What was it about Darry that made him different from the rest of the gang?
Two-Bit reveals in this chapter that the only thing that keeps Darry from being a soc is his association as a greaser. Ponyboy agrees by explaining “in spite of not having much money, the only reason Darry couldn’t be a Soc was us. The gang. Me and Soda. Darry was too smart to be a greaser. I don’t know how I know, I just did. And I was kind of sorry” (126).

Digging A Little Deeper Questions

9. How does Ponyboy’s perspective on Socs start to change after his conversation with Randy? Why does he start to see things differently?
After Ponyboy’s conversation with Randy, he begins to see that the individual is not always defined by the group. During his conversation, Randy says he didn’t think a greaser could do something as heroic as Pony and Johnny did, but Ponyboy says “Greaser’ didn’t have anything to do with it. My buddy over there wouldn’t have done it. Maybe you would have done the same thing, maybe a friend of yours wouldn’t have. It’s the individual” (115). He begins to see that not all members of the group are the same, and that perhaps he has more in common with members of the Socs than he once thought. To further solidify this, when the conversation is over, and Pony returns to speak with Two-Bit he asks “What’d Mr. Super-Soc have to say?” [and Pony responds by saying] “He ain’t a Soc,’…’he’s just a guy” (118).

10. What was the reason for Cherry not going to the hospital to see Johnny? Do you believe she was justified in her reasoning? Why or why not?
When Ponyboy suggests Cherry visit Johnny in the hospital, she says that she couldn’t because he killed Bob. *Answers for this question will vary, but students may empathize with Cherry as she knew a different side of Bob, or they may empathize with Ponyboy who thinks she should also mourn the death of her friend Johnny.

Literary Devices Questions

11. The following lines from these chapters use figurative language. Label which literary device is being used (see Literary Terms Reference Sheet).
a. “The reporters fired one question right after another at me” (100).
   (metaphor) – comparing the speed of the questions to gun shots
b. “I heard our Ford’s vrrrooooom and thought: Soda’s driving” (113).
   (onomatopoeia) – word imitating the sound of the car.
c. “He’s so greaser…he goes to the barber for an oil change, not a haircut” (114).
   (hyperbole) – exaggeration of the amount of grease in his hair
d. “He was as pale as the pillow and looked awful” (120).
   (simile) – comparing his coloring to the color of the pillow using ‘as’
e. “We knew better than to talk to Dally when his eyes were blazing” (125).
   (metaphor) – comparing his angry eyes to fire.