**Chapter 2:**

1. Consider the following two examples:  
     
   *Towards the top of page 18 – the paragraph that begins “We all had the money to get in…”.* When Ponyboy describes Dally and claims he goes around *“trying* to break laws”…  
     
   and later on in the same paragraph and page when Dally uses vulgar and antagonistic language towards Cherry and Marcia.  
     
   With reference to these two examples, what can you **infer** (read between the lines) about Dally’s psychology (why he is the way he is and does what he does)?
2. Why do you think Ponyboy’s “Ears get hot” and that he believes that “[those] kind of kicks [*flirting with girls by being rude to them*] don’t appeal to me.” I.e. what does this suggest about who Ponyboy is at this stage of his life? How mature is he?
3. Are the names Ponyboy and Sodapop nicknames? Explain the derivation of their names (where they got them from) and what this suggests about their parent/s?  
     
   Extension 2.1: Why do you think Hinton might have included this bit of information (about their father)? What effect do you think it is intended to have on readers?

**Note:** Ponyboy claims “I don’t care too much for girls yet. Soda says I’ll grow out of it. He did”. *This tells us quite a lot – because this book is an extension of a piece of writing Ponyboy begins for English at the end of the story (hence why he is writing in* ***past-tense****) – the fact that he uses* ***present-tense*** *here “Soda* ***says”*** *tells us that by the end of the book, he* ***still*** *hasn’t grow out of this phase (because Soda* ***still*** *says it), which further subtly tells the reader that Ponyboy and Cherry* ***will not*** *have a romantic relationship.*

1. According to Two-Bit, why don’t Socs fight fair? How is this different than the Greasers? *Note: this bit might be hard to find – see how you go*

**Note: Sherry/Cherry Valance** seems to be one of the wiser characters in the book. She understands intuitively that Johnny must have been “hurt bad sometime”, and is able to see the truth from both the Socs’ and the Greasers’ point of view.

**Key Quotes pp/28-9**: Cherry also introduces us to a key theme/idea: that **“[Socs] have troubles that you’ve never even heard of**” and that “**Things are rough all over.”**

1. *Ponyboy’s story/flashback – what happened to Johnny*
2. Why does Dally appear sick during Ponyboy’s flashback/story, despite having seen things like this before? What does this suggest about Dally’s character?
3. Once you find out about what happened to Johnny, how does it change your understanding of his character?
4. At the very end of Ponyboy’s story about Johnny, how does Ponyboy **foreshadow** Johnny’s eventual fate (include a quote with the evidence).

Extension 2.2: The very last line of the chapter “I know better now.” – Why might Hinton have included this line? How does it influence the reader to think or feel?

**Important Note:** Steve Randle once threatened to “beat the tar out of” Sylvia – Dally’s girlfriend (because she was flirting with Johnny). This suggests that the **violence** inherent in this culture is not healthy, and that it is not just between ‘the boys’.  
  
Do you think things have changed much since? Have you ever heard of one of your peer group threatening violence against a girl?

1. From the information given in Chapters 1 and 2 – how would you describe Ponyboy? What type of a person is he? What do we learn about him?  
     
   Extension 2.3 – include some quotes that help you to **infer** this information.
2. **Personal opinion**: Two-Bit claims that “Skin fighting (fighting without weapons) isn’t rough. It blows off steam better than anything. There’s nothing wrong with throwing a few punches.”  
     
   To what extent do you agree?