

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Conversations with Characters in *The Outsiders*

As you read these quotes from *The Outsiders*, pretend that you're in the same room listening to what the characters are saying. Now respond. Write a one-paragraph response to each (minimum 5 sentences). To help you get started, decide whether you:

- agree with what they said
- disagree with what they said
- have mixed feelings about what they said . . .and explain why.

1. “. . .The big rumble was coming up and we would settle this Soc-greaser thing once and for all.” -Ponyboy (p. 116)

2. “I was crazy, you know that, kid? Crazy for wantin’ Johnny to stay outa trouble, for not wantin’ him to get hard. If he’d been smart like me he’d never have been in this mess. If he’d got smart like me he’d never have run into that church. That’s what you get for helpin’ people. . . You get tough like me and you don’t get hurt. You look out for yourself and nothin’ can touch you. . .” -Dally (p. 155)

3. [Ponyboy to Cherry]. . . “You’re a traitor to your own kind and not loyal to us.” (137)

4. “[Having the gang] ain’t the same as having your own folks care about you.” –Johnny (60)

5. “We watched Darry going toward Tim and the leader of the Brumly boys. He shouldn’t be here, I thought suddenly. I shouldn’t be here and Steve shouldn’t be here and Soda shouldn’t be here and Two-Bit shouldn’t be here. We’re greasers, but not hoods, and we don’t belong with this bunch of future convicts. We could end up like them, I thought. We could.” –Ponyboy (149)

6. *For this one, imagine that you’re Ponyboy. What would you tell Johnny if he made this request and you could talk to him beyond the grave:* “I want you to tell Dally to look at [a sunset]. He’ll probably think you’re crazy, but ask for me. I don’t think he’s ever really seen a sunset.” – Johnny (187)
