

The Outsiders Debate

Greasers are people who are mostly poor and are in gangs. They stick together and look out for each other. The Greasers were right for doing everything that they did including Ponyboy and Johnny not staying to take the blame of Bob's death. Furthermore, the Socials were responsible for Johnny's death. Finally, the primary theme for *The Outsiders* was "true friends are friends forever."

Ponyboy and Johnny should not have stayed to take the blame for Bob's death because it wasn't their fault. First of all, the Socials were drunk. This caused them to make very bad choices. They were under age drinking and decided to mess with the Greasers they saw. If they weren't drunk then the Socials wouldn't have been messing with them to the point where they almost killed someone. After all, if they weren't even in the Greasers' territory they wouldn't have even had to deal with the fact that Bob was dead. The Greasers and the Socials each have their own territory. In the book, Johnny asks Pony, "What do they want. This is our territory. What are they doing this far east." It tells us that the east side was the Greasers' side and the Socials were intruding. It gave them the right to act in self-defense to save themselves when the Socials were drowning Ponyboy. Bob told David, one of the Socials, to give Ponyboy a bath. They started drowning him in the park fountain and wouldn't let him breathe. They kept his head in there for so long that Ponyboy passed out. If Johnny wouldn't have killed Bob then Pony would have been held there too long, and he would have died. These reasons gave them the right not to take the blame of Bob's death because it was the Socials' faults because of being drunk, entering the Greasers' territory, and for almost drowning Ponyboy.

The Socials are responsible for Johnny's death because they are the ones who jumped Ponyboy and him in the park. This made Ponyboy and Johnny act in self-defense against Bob and the other Socials making them run away. Johnny wouldn't have been injured and killed if the Socials had never tried to drown Ponyboy, making Johnny fight back. Johnny and Ponyboy were scared the Socials might get back at them for killing Bob. They might have thought the Socials were wanting to kill a Greaser for

what they did, so they decided to hide in that church. They also didn't know if they would be arrested for what they did and were scared to find out from the cops. If the Socials wouldn't have scared them so much maybe they would have been back home. They could have been away from that fire when it happened and it wouldn't have been the Socials' faults they stayed in that church. If the Socials knew how to control their jealousy they wouldn't have decided to jump Johnny and Ponyboy. They decided to jump these two Greasers when they saw them. They did this because the Greasers were driving Bob and Randy's girlfriends home. The Greasers were just trying to be kind, and in return Ponyboy and Johnny were jumped by them. The Greasers meant no harm to the Socials or their girlfriends. The Socials were the ones to blame for Johnny's death because they were the jealous ones who made Ponyboy and Johnny defend themselves, and the Socials scared them off, into that church.

The meaning "true friends last forever," is very important in this book. This book is about friendship, drama, and trust. It teaches us that life gets hard but it gets better if you try. Things happen that will split a family apart but deep down they will always be with us. I think the primary theme for the outsiders is that "true friends are friends forever." The Greasers are a family because they grew up with each other. They have trusted each other with many things, and they are always looking out for one another. The entire gang was there for Ponyboy when he was jumped just outside of the movie theater because he was walking home alone. The gang found out, and rescued Pony just before he was injured. The Greaser gang knew where to find him and chased the Socials away. Next, when Johnny and Pony didn't know what to do after killing Bob, they went to Dally. Immediately, he was there for them and helped them out. He gave them money, told them where to hide, and told them what to get to take care of themselves while in the church. lastly , when Dally was so upset Johnny died, he robbed a bank. Pony received a call from him saying he needed them to hide him. The whole gang immediately was there for him even though he had made a bad decision. Sadly, they did not make it in time, but they were trying as hard as they could to get there. True friends do last

forever because if they didn't the gang never would have saved Ponyboy from being jumped outside the theater by the Socials, Dally wouldn't have risked his freedom by helping Ponyboy and Johnny run away, and the gang never would have tried to save Dally from the police.

The Greasers were right for doing everything they did including Ponyboy and Johnny not staying to take the blame for Bob's death. The Socials were responsible for Johnny's death. Finally, the primary theme for *The Outsiders* was, "true friends are forever." The Greasers and the Socials both did bad and good things to each other, but the Socials started their rivalry.