**The Outsiders – S.E Hinton**

**Chapter 7 - 10 Analysis**

Chapter 7 - 8 Analysis

* Family becomes increasingly important in the second half of the novel – both the biological Curtis family and the makeshift Greaser family.
* Events begin to threaten the Curtis’s cohesion, since a good chance exists that the state will take Ponyboy from his brothers and put him in a boys’ home.
* This threat is especially heartrending for the brothers because Ponyboy is finally learning to appreciate Darry.
* It becomes important to Ponyboy to stay with his brothers as a matter of Greaser pride.
* If the Curtis brothers can stay together, they can prove that Greasers have the capability to overcome great odds and be functional, even successful.
* For boys such as Johnny, his fellow Greasers are far more caring and stable than biological parents, and provide a more trustworthy family.
* His preference for the Greasers and disdain for his dysfunctional family become more evident when he allows Ponyboy and Two-Bit to visit him in hospital but will not see his own mother.
* He refuses her not because he is callous or because he wants to hurt her, but rather because he does not consider her an important part of his life.
* She has failed him as a mother, denying him the nurturing that every child needs, and Ponyboy and Two-Bit provided Johnny with an alternative source of support.
* Johnny realized violence is futile and recognizes that it does not make up his whole identity.
* The cycles of nature that Ponyboy introduces through the Robert Frost poem help him to realize that natural cycles, specifically life and death, apply to members of all social groups.

Chapter 9 - 10 Analysis

* The struggle between the instinct to make peace and the social obligation to fight.
* The fact that Darry and Paul were high school friends and football teammates suggests that their rivalry need not exist – that money makes enemies of natural friends.
* While this animosity seems pointless, each gang member who fights still feels a responsibility to his gang to hate the other gang.
* Violence won’t solve anything.
* Ponyboy ignores his instincts and goes through with the fight because he wants to please his social group.
* The Greasers prepare for the rumble as if preparing for a high school dance.
* They bathe, do their hair, and dress carefully.
* The rumble is a social event, an occasion to defend and celebrate one’s identity.
* Despite their victory, the Greasers understand the uselessness of violence.
* Nothing has really improved for them: Greasers are injured, separation still threatens the Curtis brothers and Johnny still lays dying.
* The rumble proves anticlimactic.
* Immediately after the rumble, Ponyboy and Dally rush to the hospital to see Johnny.
* Their actions suggest that the rumble is a minor event interrupting their real concerns.
* Ponyboy’s hospitalization suggests that the string of disasters has ended and that a period of reflection can finally begin.