

Name: _____

Use with the book:
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

The Outsiders

Chapter 6

Focusing on the hospital scene at the end of chapter 6, analyze how Ponyboy and Darry's relationship evolves over the course of the story. What finally makes Ponyboy realize that Darry loves him? Explain what you think Ponyboy's final words mean: "I was finally home. To stay."

Be sure to discuss what Ponyboy's original assumptions about their relationship. Explain how earlier conflicts between the brothers make this moment especially significant and notable as a turning point. Use specific evidence from the text to support your analysis in a well-developed, multi-paragraph response.

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield emblem on the chest. He is flying through a blue sky with white clouds, leaving a white trail behind him. The shield emblem on his chest has the letters 'MJS' on it.

Preview

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Chapter 6

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield emblem with the letters 'MJS' on his chest, is flying through a blue sky with white clouds. He is smiling and has his arms outstretched.

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The Outsiders

Chapter 6

Excerpt

Then I saw Darry. He was leaning in the doorway, wearing his olive jeans and black T-shirt. He was still tall, broad-shouldered Darry; but his fists were jammed in his pockets and his eyes were pleading. I simply looked at him. He swallowed and said in a husky voice, "Ponyboy..."

I let go of Soda and stood there for a minute. Darry didn't like me... he had driven me away that night... he had hit me... Darry hollered at me all the time... he didn't give a hang about me... Suddenly I realized, horrified, that Darry was crying. He didn't make a sound, but tears were running down his cheeks. I hadn't seen him cry in years, not even when Mom and Dad had been killed. (I remembered the funeral.



Darry looked down and turned away silently. Suddenly I broke out of my daze.

"Darry!" I screamed, and the next thing I knew I had him around the waist and was squeezing the daylights out of him.

"Darry," I said, "I'm sorry..."

He was stroking my hair and I could hear the sobs racking him as he fought to keep back the tears. "Oh, Pony, I thought we'd lost you... like we did Mom and Dad..."

That was his silent fear then—of losing another person he loved. I remembered how close he and Dad had been, and I wondered how I could ever have thought him hard and unfeeling. I listened to his heart pounding through his T-shirt and knew everything was going to be okay now. I had taken the long way around, but I was finally home. To stay.