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English Thursdays

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### Stay Golden

Support can be used when under the weather. The Outsiders is written by S.E. Hinton. The main characters are Ponyboy, Sodapop, Darry, Dally, and Two-Bit. Ponyboy Curtis, the fourteen-year-old narrator, lives with his older brothers Sodapop and Darry, since their parents passed away in a car accident. They are all members of a Greaser gang, meaning they are considered hoods or people that were in Juvenile court. Even though, the rivalry is violent, it's also fading away because of the support.

In the book The Outsiders, Pony paints a vivid picture of the violent tension between the two rival gangs. The way he describes his older brothers and those around him as acting like loyal fools, shows that he's intuitive and observant. Pony's also intelligent because he achieves excellent grades and reads a ton. He's not like one of the greasers, who are very brainless. Because of this, he likes to be alone and he doesn't like greaser girls. He also likes watching movies because he loves imagining the movie like it was happening in his life. He's an imaginative person who hints that he's not exactly happy being a greaser.

Due to Ponyboy being different and less violent, the rivalry is fading away. Before the rumble, Randy who was Bob's best buddy had a chat with Pony. Saying,

“Why did you rescue the schoolchildren out of the fire, if you’re a greaser?” Pony tells Randy, “It doesn’t matter if I’m a greaser. I did it because it was the right thing to do.” Randy explains to Pony that he’s not going to the rumble because he’s too fed up because of what happened to Bob. This relates to the rivalry between the Socs and greasers because Pony cares about his family. This means that Pony does want to fight in the rumble. He cares because he doesn’t want anybody hurt. Because Pony doesn’t want to cause violence, he doesn’t fit in and the rivalry gets weaker.

Pony learns that having people to lean on is important. Within chapter 4, Johnny kills Bob, one of the Socs who beat him up before because he was trying to protect Pony from the Socs. This proves that Johnny cares about Pony. After Johnny kills Bob, he says to Pony, “ I had to. They were drowning you, Pony. They might have killed you!” Johnny killed Bob because after Bob beat Johnny up he had a switchblade in his back pocket just to be ready for when the Socs jump him. This proves that Johnny is “tuffer” than his friends thought. This shows that Pony has support not only from his brothers but his friends also.

Nobody has to stay and be alone. Family is family and nothing can change that. Support from family and friends is the best kind of support. This text is important because it teaches readers importance of loyalty, love, and support of loved ones.