*The Outsiders*

Characters

The Greasers (East side of town) - POOR

Ponyboy (Pony) Curtis – main character; 14 years old

* He likes to read and to watch movies (alone).
* He’s smart at school (gets good grades), but he doesn’t always use his head (street smarts). For example, he is walking home from the movies alone which can be dangerous if the Socs jump him.

Sodapop (Soda) Curtis – 16 years old; Ponyboy’s brother

* Ponyboy is closer to Sodapop than to Darry.
* “Soda is different from anybody; he understands everything, almost.” (p. 2)
* Handsome (“movie-star kind of handsome” – p.7), slim, has a sensitive face, reckless and thoughtful at the same time; dark-gold hair.
* “He gets drunk on just plain living. And he understands everybody.” (p. 8)
* He’s a high school dropout.

Darrell (Darry) Curtis – 20 years old; Ponyboy’s brother

* 6 feet, 2 inches tall, broad-shouldered, and muscular.
* Dark-brown hair; he looks just like his father did.
* Determined, tough, cool, and smart.
* “He doesn’t understand anything that is not plain hard fact. But he uses his head (p. 7)
* “Works too long and hard” (p. 2)
* “Darry’s hard and firm and rarely grins at all. But then, Darry’s gone through a lot in his twenty years, grown up too fast.” (p. 2)
* Both parents died in a car crash, so Darry has had to raise his brothers.

Keith “Two-Bit” Mathews – 18 years old

* He got his name because “he always had to get his two-bits worth in.”
* 6 feet tall, stocky, proud; he likes to smile and make funny remarks.
* He loves shoplifting and going to school; he also likes fights and blondes.

Johnny Cade – 16 years old

* He was jumped by Socs and beaten very badly.
* Young, small, slight build.
* He is nervous and always suspicious.
* He comes from an abusive home; his father beats him and his mother ignores him. “If it hadn’t been for the gang, Johnny would never have known what love and affection are.” (p. 12)

Steve Randle – 17 years old

* Sodapop’s best friend.
* Tall, lean, with thick greasy hair; cocky, smart, and knows a lot about cars.
* He works with Sodapop at the gas station.
* He isn’t overly fond of Ponyboy always hanging out with them.

Dallas “Dally” Winston

* Dangerous, wild; tougher, colder, and meaner than anyone else in the group.
* Dally was arrested when he was 10 years old.
* He rides the line between greaser and hood (criminal).
* He likes to get drunk, ride in rodeos, steal, lie, cheat, roll drunks (rob drunk people), and beat up little kids.

The Socs or Socials (West side of town) - RICH