

The Outsiders: Chapter 10

Essential Revision Guide for
Junior Cycle English

Focus areas:

- Falling Action
- Tragedy
- Brotherhood

The falling action moves quickly from shock to a final tragedy.



Ponyboy wanders home in deep denial after Johnny's death.



Dally calls the gang. He robbed a grocery store and is running from the police.

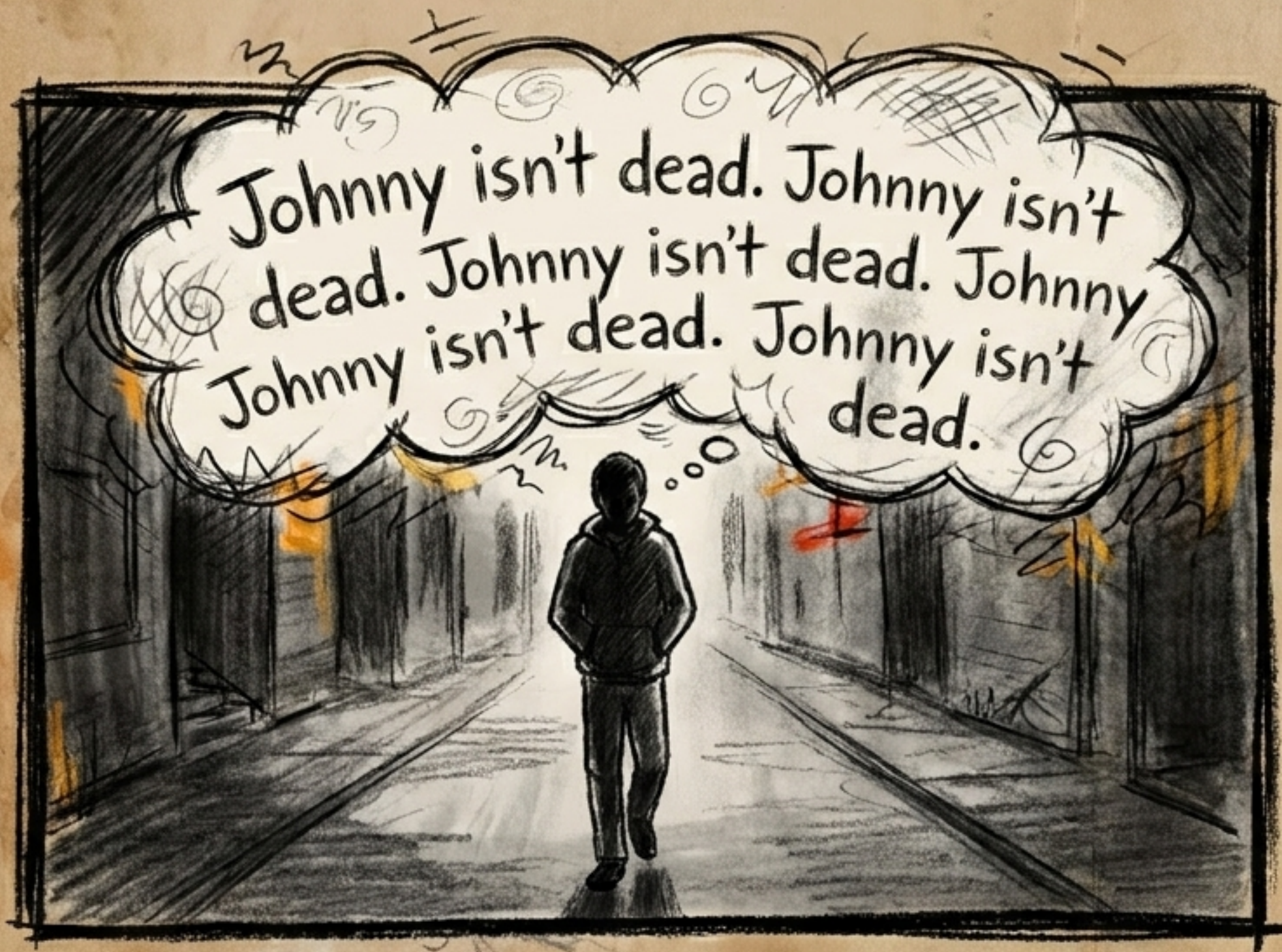


Dally faces the police at the vacant lot and is shot. Ponyboy collapses.



Ponyboy wakes up three days later with a concussion.

Ponyboy wanders the streets
in a state of total denial.



After Johnny dies,
Ponyboy roams the
hospital halls and
city streets in a
daze, completely
disoriented.

A stranger has to give
him a ride home because
his head is bleeding.
Ponyboy is in deep
psychological shock.

The silent grief at home is shattered by a desperate phone call.

The Gang



Everyone is silent. Ponyboy has just delivered the devastating news: Johnny is dead.

The Call



The phone rings. It's Dally. He has just robbed a grocery store and the police are chasing him. He needs a place to hide.

Accompanied by wailing sirens, the gang immediately races to the vacant lot.



Everyone reaches the vacant lot at the exact same time.

Dally: Stands in a circle of light under the streetlamp. He pulls out a **gun**.

BANG

The Gang: Watching helplessly. Ponyboy knows for a fact that Dally's gun is **unloaded**.

The Police: They do not know the gun is **fake**. Reacting to the weapon, they **shoot**.

DALLY

**Dally Winston wanted to be dead
and he always got what he wanted.**



What the police saw:

A dangerous, fleeing criminal raising a weapon to fight.

What Ponyboy knew:

Dally's gun was unloaded. Dally only ever loved one thing: Johnny. With Johnny gone, Dally wanted the police to end his life.

Exam Keywords:

Suicide by Cop / Tragic Flaw

As Dally falls, Ponyboy's body finally gives out.

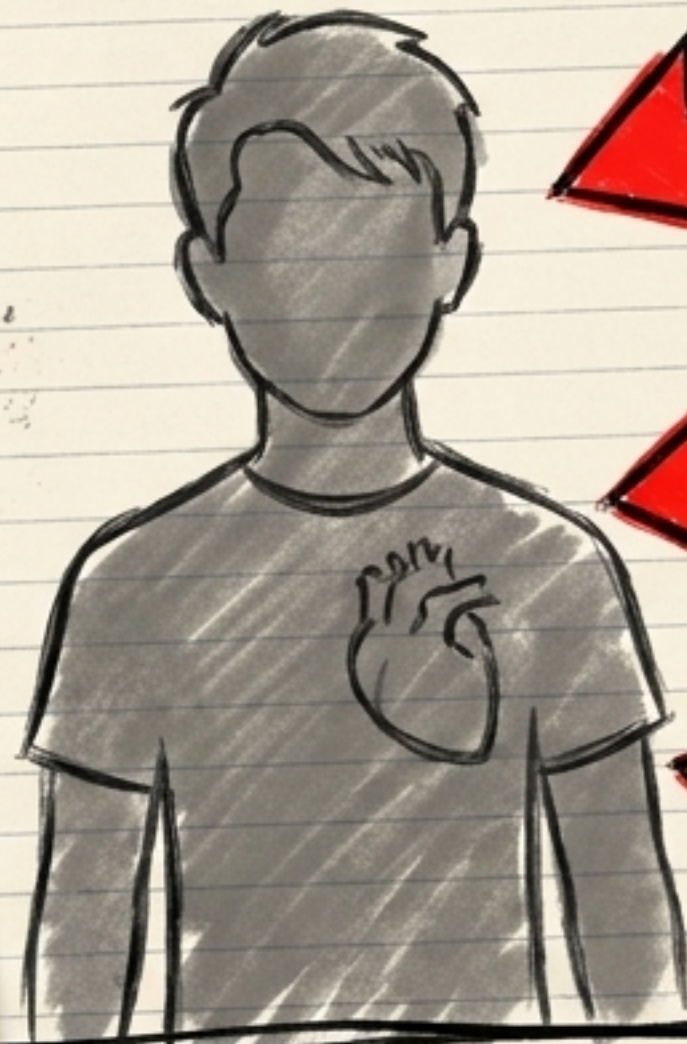
As the tragedy unfolds, Ponyboy's condition rapidly worsens. His vision shifts in and out of focus. He can barely stand.

He collapses in the dirt of the vacant lot as his brothers and the gang rush to help him.

The next thing he remembers...
is waking up at home.

Three days later, the physical and emotional toll becomes clear.

Medical Chart



Minor Concussion

Sustained when a Soc kicked him in the head during the rumble. He has been delirious in bed for three days.

Emotional Shock

The psychological result of processing two traumatic deaths in a single night.

Severe Exhaustion

Total physical collapse.

Darry and Soda have spent every moment by his bedside. They are just as exhausted as he is.

A left-behind book becomes a painful symbol of lost friends.



The Fact: Darry reveals that Johnny instructed the nurse to give his copy of *Gone with the Wind* to Ponyboy.

The Meaning: The book makes Ponyboy think of the "Southern gentlemen" riding off to certain death in the war.

The Connection: The suicidal bravery reminds him too much of Dally's final moments. Overwhelmed, Ponyboy vows never to finish the book.

Our minds often invent problems that do not exist in reality.

Pony's Delirious Fear

While unconscious, Ponyboy panicked. He worries that he only asked for Soda and ignored Darry. He is terrified of hurting Darry's feelings.



The Reality

Soda puts his mind at ease. He confirms Ponyboy asked for Darry constantly, and Darry has been faithfully sitting by his bed the entire time.

Key Insight: This highlights how human behavior makes us make up issues in our heads that have no basis in reality.

The brothers are reunited, but their future is highly uncertain.

Ponyboy has been unconscious and missed a lot of school.



He has missed his important track competitions.

The threat of the brothers being split up and placed in a boys' home is still a very real possibility.

The chapter contrasts the heavy cost of loss with unconditional loyalty.

The Cost of Loss

We see how drastically differently people handle grief. Ponyboy goes into deep denial and gets physically sick; Dally becomes violently destructive and forces the end of his own life.

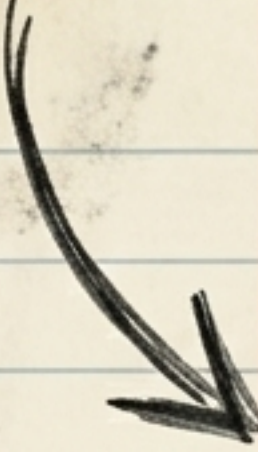


Unconditional Brotherhood


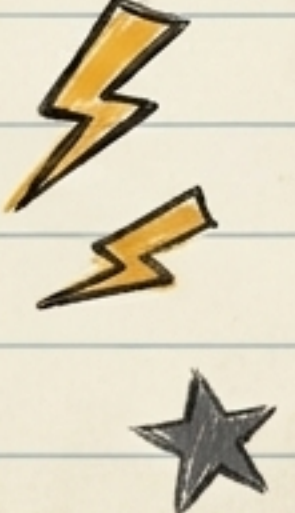
Despite the surrounding chaos, the gang's loyalty remains until the very end. Darry and Soda prove their devotion by staying by Ponyboy's bed for days.



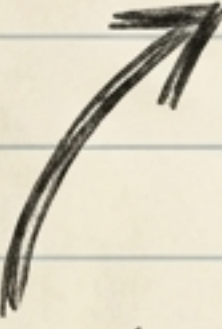
Test your understanding with Junior Cycle practice questions.




1. Why did Dally decide to pull an unloaded gun on the police? What does this reveal to us about the 'real' Dally?



2. How did you feel when Dally was killed? Were you surprised by your reaction?



3. Ponyboy worries about hurting Darry's feelings. What did you learn about human behavior from the way Ponyboy acted?



Top Tip:

Use the 'P.E.E.' method (Point, Evidence, Explain) when writing your exam answers to guarantee top marks!