



Chapter 5

# *The Outsiders: Chapter 5 Revision Guide*

A Junior Cycle Study Guide to the calm before the storm.

# The chapter splits sharply into two different worlds

## Days 1 to 5: The Sanctuary

Johnny and Ponyboy hide in the abandoned church. Time slows down. They read, reflect on their actions, and mourn the loss of their normal lives.



## Day 5: Reality Intrudes

Dallas (Dally) Winston arrives. He brings a letter from Sodapop and pulls the boys straight back into the violent, high-stakes reality of the gang war.



# Johnny returns with a very specific survival kit



## Fuel

A week's supply of food and smokes. It shows they are planning to stay hidden for a long time, living on the bare minimum.



## Disguise

Bought to change Ponyboy's hair color. A necessary tool to hide from the police who are looking for Bob's killers.



## Escape

A paperback novel. It gives the boys a way to escape their grim reality and connect over a story about doomed heroes.

Cutting their hair means cutting away their identity

## The Greaser Look



**What it is:** Long, dark, heavily oiled hair.

**What it means:** It is their pride, their badge of honor, and their label. It proves they belong to the Greaser gang.

The  
Sacrifice

## The Disguise



**What it is:** Cut short and bleached blonde with peroxide.

**What it means:** It represents fear, hiding, and the loss of who they are. Ponyboy feels stripped of his identity.

# A story about doomed heroes hits close to home

**The Book:**  
Gone with the Wind.  
A famous novel set  
during the American  
Civil War.

**The Characters:**  
The boys are fascinated by  
the "Southern Gentlemen"  
in the book. These are men  
who are described as  
brave, well-mannered,  
and willing to ride into  
certain death for what  
they believe in.

Southern Gentlemen


brave

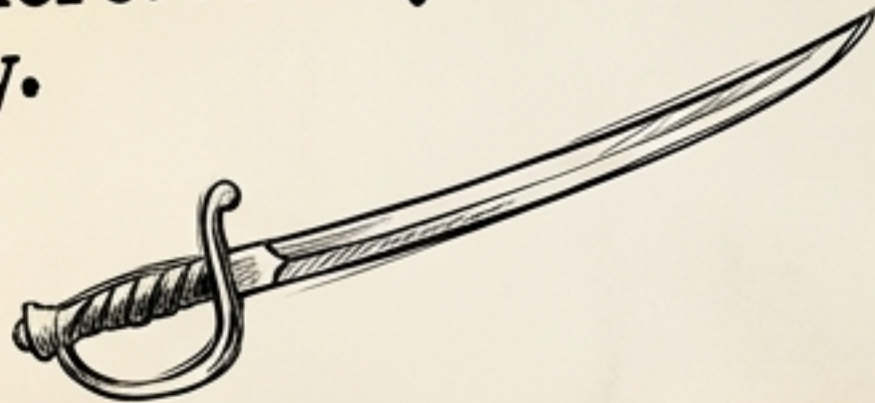
ride into certain death

**The Connection:**  
Johnny admires these  
men because they remind  
him of the bravery and  
loyalty he sees in the  
Greaser gang.

# The boys completely disagree about Dallas Winston

## Johnny's View of Dally

**The Hero:** Johnny hero-worships Dally. 



**"Gallant":** Johnny compares Dally to the brave Southern gentlemen in their book. He remembers a time Dally took the blame for a crime Two-Bit committed, facing the police without blinking.

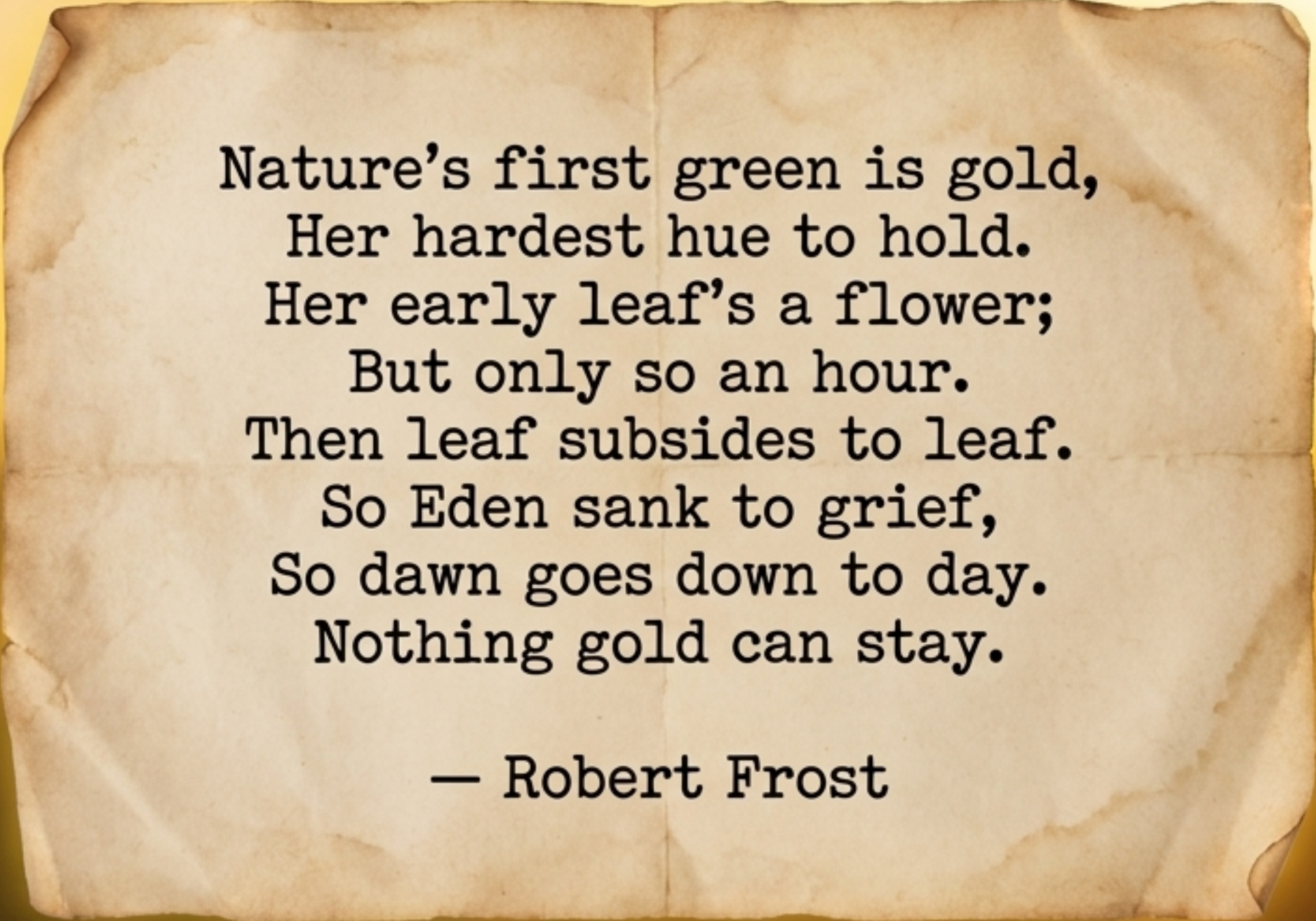
## Ponyboy's View of Dally

**The Reality:** Ponyboy prefers the other greasers. He likes heroes in novels, but Dally scares him.



**Too Real:** To Ponyboy, Dally isn't a romantic hero; he is hardened, cold, and dangerously real.

A poem captures the feeling of losing their innocence



Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.

— Robert Frost

# Gold is a metaphor for youth and goodness

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
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**The Meaning:** Springtime, sunrises, and blooming flowers don't last long. 'Gold' represents everything that is pure, new, and innocent.

**The Meaning:** Everything eventually ages, fades, or turns to grief.

**The Connection to the Boys:** Ponyboy recites this because he and Johnny are losing their 'gold'. The murder, the hiding, and the gang violence are forcing them to grow up too fast. Their innocence is fading.

# Dallas arrives and the real world crashes in

After about five days of hiding, the quiet is shattered. Dallas Winston shows up at the church.

Ponyboy

He brings a letter for Ponyboy from his worried brother, Sodapop.

**Dally takes the starving boys out to Dairy Queen, bringing with him a wave of chaotic news from the city. The sanctuary is over.**

# Dally brings four pieces of explosive news



## 1. The Police Alibi

The cops asked Dally about Bob's murder. Dally lied to protect the boys, telling the police the killers fled south to Texas.



## 2. The Furious Socs

The Socs are enraged over Bob's death. A state of open warfare now exists across the city between the two rival groups.



## 3. The Rumble

The tension has boiled over. A massive gang fight—a "rumble"—has been arranged to take place in a vacant lot in exactly one day.



## 4. The Spy

The Greasers have a secret spy giving them information about the Socs' plans. Shockingly, it's a Soc girl.

**CONFIDENTIAL**



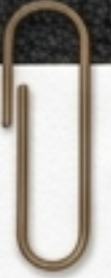
The Spy:  
Cherry Valance.

### Why is she helping?

Cherry is Bob's girlfriend, but she is feeding information to the Greasers. She feels personally responsible for the murderous encounter because the fight started over her and her friend walking with Johnny and Ponyboy.

**Takeaway:** This proves that loyalty in the novel isn't just about what gang you belong to. Cherry is willing to cross enemy lines to do what she feels is right.

## Junior Cycle Exam Prep: Test your knowledge (Part 1)




Q: What's a 'heater' and why does Dally have one?  
Do you think this is a good idea?

A: A 'heater' is a slang term for a gun. Dally carries it because the tension between the gangs has turned into open warfare since Bob's death. Carrying a weapon is a terrible idea—it guarantees that the upcoming rumble could turn deadly.

Q: Why is Dally 'gallant' according to Johnny?

A: Johnny thinks Dally is gallant (brave and noble) because he remembers Dally taking the blame for a crime Two-Bit committed. Dally took the punishment from the police without complaining, showing intense loyalty to his friends.

## Junior Cycle Exam Prep: Test your knowledge (Part 2)

 Q: Why has a 'rumble' been arranged in the vacant lot?

A: The rumble is arranged because the Socs are furious about Bob being killed. It is a planned, all-out fight to settle the score and get revenge against the Greasers.

Q: What does Dally tell the cops about Ponyboy and Johnny?

A: When the police questioned Dally, he deliberately lied to throw them off the trail. He told the cops that the perpetrators had fled to Texas, keeping the police away from the church.

## Connect the chapter's events to your main exam themes

### Loss of Innocence



- Cutting and bleaching their hair strips away their identity.
- Reading the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" highlights that their childhood and purity are fading fast.

### Heroism



- Reading Gone with the Wind introduces the idea of the brave "Southern Gentleman."
- Johnny sees Dally as a hero who takes the blame for others, while Ponyboy sees him as a frightening criminal.

### Loyalty & Brotherhood



- Johnny buys supplies to keep them both alive.
- Dally lies to the police and drives out to the country to check on them.
- Cherry Valance crosses gang lines to act as a spy out of a sense of guilt and fairness.