

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Stay Gold

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Johnny's words remind Ponyboy to hold onto the good inside him, which may help him make better choices in life.
2. Answers will vary—some might say they would focus on their dreams, stay kind to others, or avoid violence.
3. The novel shows that even in tough situations, characters like Ponyboy can still find beauty in the world.
4. The poem helps explain the theme of the novel—that innocence is precious but often lost too soon.

