

Name _____

Coping with Loss

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Answers will vary—students might share a story about losing a pet, a friend moving away, or changing schools.
2. Some might say yes, Dally could have talked to his friends or asked for help. Others might say no, because he never learned how to handle emotions.
3. Without Johnny, Ponyboy might not have learned the importance of “staying gold” and might have become more like Dally.
4. The novel focuses on loss to show how it affects people differently and to teach readers that they can grow from difficult experiences.

