

Name _____



Clashing Worlds

Ponyboy Curtis has always known that the Greasers and the Socs see the world differently. The Greasers, like him, are kids from the poorer side of town. They don't have much money, and many of them have tough family lives. They wear their hair long, dress in jeans and leather jackets, and stick together like family. The Socs, short for "Socials," are the wealthy kids who drive fancy cars

and wear expensive clothes. They have everything money can buy, yet they seem cold and distant.

The Greasers see the Socs as spoiled and heartless. To them, the Socs have perfect lives with no real struggles. They live in big houses, have parents who can buy them anything, and never have to worry about money. The Socs, in return, see the Greasers as wild troublemakers. They think Greasers are criminals who start fights and cause problems.

But Ponyboy starts to question these beliefs when he meets Cherry Valance, a Soc girl who doesn't act the way he expected. She tells him that the Socs have problems too, just different ones. They are expected to act cool and emotionless, even when they feel lost inside. Cherry's words make Ponyboy wonder if the differences between their groups are really as big as he once thought.

Even though Ponyboy begins to understand the Socs better, their fights continue. The Greasers and the Socs have a deep rivalry, and it often leads to violence. When Johnny, Ponyboy's best friend, kills a Soc in self-defense, the conflict reaches a dangerous level. Now, the boys must go into hiding, and Ponyboy realizes how dangerous these divisions can be.

By the end of his journey, Ponyboy learns an important lesson: not all Greasers are bad, and not all Socs are cruel. People are more than just their social group. But the question remains—will the rest of the world ever see it that way?