Mrs. Baker

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Ch 1 Talking Points

1. I can infer that Ponyboy lives in the poor part of town, the East Side, in Oklahoma during the 1960s. There is socio-economic division as demonstrated when the Socs taunt Ponyboy by saying, “Need a haircut, greaser?” (p 16). There is a lack of maturity, discipline, and parental supervision as shown when Two-Bit Matthews says, “plan on getting boozed tomorrow night” (p 14). They live in a dangerous part of down and “Dally blew off steam in fights” (p 9).
2. Socially, Ponyboy and his friends come from a poor, working-class background. Three quotes to supports this are:

* “We’re poorer than the Socs and the middle-class” (p 3).
* “Darry would kill me if I got in trouble at school” (p 9).
* “Since mom and dad got killed in an autowreck, the three of us stay together as long as we behave” (p 3).

1. Hinton used first-person narrative to show the personality and perspective of the narrator, Ponyboy. Hinton used action from when Ponyboy gets jumped to describe the Socs. She includes the dialogue to authenticate the story as well as give an accurate portrayal of teen life.
2. The blend of first person narrative, action, and dialogue immerses you into the story and it makes you feel like you are Ponyboy.
3. The Greasers have their own language phrases. For example:
   1. “Bleedin’ like a stuck pig” (p 7, Sodapop) explains how bad the injury is.
   2. “He’s always happy-go-lucky and grinning” (p 2) Ponyboy is describing Sodapop’s character and how happy he is all the time.
   3. “So I stood there like a bump on a log” (p 4) Ponyboy is feeling lazy and dumbfounded
4. The gang is important to Johnny because the gang members are the only family he has. On page 12 Ponyboy tells us, “His father was always beating him up and his mother ignored him.” The gang provides Johnny with the love and acceptance he needs for his emotional and psychological development.
5. Ponyboy lies to himself as a coping mechanism because his reality is harsh. However, he is intelligent enough to recognize the truth of his situation.