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1. The author seems to be focusing on circumstances and their weight on people.

1. “You know, the only thing that keeps Darry from bein’ a Soc is us” (126)

2. “Darry was standing there representing all of us” (142)

3. “We look hoody and they look decent. It could be just the other way around- half of the hoods I know are pretty decent guys… a lot of the Socs are just cold-blooded mean” (141)

4. “Even if I don’t steal things and mug people and get boozed up, I’m still marked lousy” (132)

5. “He wasn’t going to be any hood when he got old. He was going to get somewhere” (138)

6. “And don’t be so bugged over being a greaser. You still have a lot of time to make yourself what you want” –Johnny (179)

6. “And Two-Bit for conformity” (137)

7. Do you think the author is saying that if you are born into certain circumstances or that if you are surrounded by certain people, that means you are stuck in this environment and will eventually conform? Would you agree or disagree that a person would become stuck due to his/her circumstances?

8. I think it depends on the person because Ponyboy says that he and Darry would not grow old being a hood, so they want to overcome their circumstances. Yet Two-Bit fights to conform and Darry is labeled a greaser because of the people he is surrounded with (the gang) and he is even represents the greasers during the rumble. At the same time he doesn’t mug people, steal, smoke, or have long hair which shows he is not conforming to the society he lives in. Therefore this is evidence that circumstances do play a part in how one is labeled and perceived as by others, but just because one is born into a circumstance does not mean they will conform to the environment surrounding them like Darry. Conformity depends on the person, Darry doesn’t conform but Two-Bit does (137).

1. There seems to have been a shift in the way the gang views being a greaser
2. At the beginning of the book Two-Bit says, “Nice cut, too makes you look tough” (12)
3. Latter Two-Bit says, “Ponyboy, listen, don’t get tough. You’re not like the rest of us and don’t try to be…” (171)
4. Before Johnny dies he says, “Useless… fighting’s no good… Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold” (148)
5. Ponyboy starts questioning his identity of being a greaser, “What kind of world is it where all I have to be proud of is a reputation of being a hood, and greasy hair?” (132)
6. Why do you think the members of Ponyboy’s gang don’t want him to become a “hood”?
7. They (Two-Bit and Johnny) don’t want to see what happen to Johnny and Dallas (them dying) happen to Ponyboy. Through out the book Ponyboy is presented as different. Cherry is able to talk to Ponyboy, “I think you’re the first person I’ve ever really gotten through to” (38). Ponyboy does not participate in the activities that greaser would normally do, “I don’t want to be a hood… I don’t steal things and mug people and get boozed up” (132). They didn’t want Ponyboy to have hatred in his heart like Dallas had, “His eyes were blue, blazing ice, cold with a hatred of the whole world” (10)