

Ponyboy, Sodapop, Darry

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MR. SYME. Anything you think important. I want your own ideas, your experience. At least five pages.

PONYBOY. Like my first trip to the zoo?

MR. SYME (going). If you think it's important. (PONYBOY is waking back into the living area.)

→ PONYBOY (as he goes. Talking to himself). Well, I know what's not important.

SODAPOP. What isn't important?

PONYBOY. Schoolwork! Why all the sweat?

SODAPOP. Take it easy.

PONYBOY. I'll have to get a job as soon as I get out of school. Why not drop out now?

DARRY (angry). You're not going to drop out. With your brains, you could get a scholarship. We could put you through college.

PONYBOY. Big deal.

DARRY (hard). Johnny and Dallas were our buddies, too, but you don't stop living because you lose someone. You don't quit.

PONYBOY. Look at Soda. He's doing okay, and he dropped out. You can just lay off.

DARRY. Any time you don't like the way I'm running things, you can leave.

SODAPOP (upset). Don't—Oh, you guys—why can't you—(Upset, he goes off into the kitchen.)

PONYBOY (startled by the reaction). What's with Soda?

DARRY. He lost Sandy, too.

PONYBOY. She's in Florida with her grandmother. She'll be back. They're writing to each other.

DARRY (picks up envelope). This came back today. (As PONYBOY looks to him.) It's the letter Soda wrote to Sandy. It wasn't opened. It's marked "Return to Sender."

PONYBOY (horrified). Not even opened!

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(SODAPOP is coming back in.)

SODAPOP (apologetic). Sorry, PONYBOY. It's okay. Really.

SODAPOP. I'm telling you the truth, Ponyboy. I dropped out because I'm dumb. Look, I'm happy working in a gas station with cars. You'd never be happy doing that.

You have to understand about Darry, too. He wants you to have the chance he missed. (Emotional.) We can't get hacked off at each other anymore. We're all we've got left and if we don't stick together, we don't have anything. (His hope.) Pony, if you make it you're making it for all three of us.

DARRY (sincerely). What do you say, Pony? PONYBOY (coming to a decision). You guys get out of here so I can concentrate. I've gotta theme to write. (BOTH BROTHERS are delighted with his decision. They're going.)

DARRY. See you later.

SODAPOP. You'll think of something. PONYBOY. Something important. (As they go, PONYBOY crosses to the table. He notices the book and as he picks it up a piece of paper flutters to the floor. He picks up the paper as he did before. Recognizing.) Johnny's handwriting—

(At the left a bit of light comes up on the only half-seen JOHNNY.)

JOHNNY (what PONYBOY is reading). I asked the Nurse to give you this book so you could finish it—(PONYBOY is skipping on down till he comes to a part he especially likes.) I want you to tell Dallas to look at a sun-

End