A17
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TWO-BIT *(considers JOHNNY. Getting his anxiety. Deciding)*. Happens I'll be going right by your place, Johnnycake. Right by your door.

JOHNNY *(with great relief)*. Two-Bit—thanks. *(JOHNNY and TWO-BIT exit.)*

START

PONYBOY *(looking after them)*. Remember how Johnny looked when he got beat up? Why do the Socs hate us so much?

SANDY *(bitterly)*. That's just how it works. We're greasers.

PONYBOY. I'm reading *Great Expectations* for English, and that kid Pip, he reminds me of us—the way he felt marked lousy because he wasn't a gentleman or anything and the way that girl kept looking down on him.

SODAPOP. That's only a book, Pony.

PONYBOY *(not agreeing)*. It happened to me. One time in biology I had to dissect a worm and the razor wouldn't cut, so I used my switchblade.

SANDY. Pony!

PONYBOY. I forgot what I was doing or I'd never had done it. The minute I flicked it out this girl right beside me kind of gasped and said, "They are right. You are a hood."

SANDY. A Soc? *(PONYBOY nods.)* Was she pretty?

PONYBOY *(nods again)*. She looked real good in yellow. *(Annoyed at himself. To SODAPOP.)* Don't tell Darry. He'll say I didn't think again.

SODAPOP. Probably would, but when he hollers at you —he don't mean nothin'.

PONYBOY. Like hell—

SANDY *(to SODAPOP)*. Have to get home before my mother gets hacked off. *(She's saying "I love you.")* I don't want to miss the game tomorrow.

SODAPOP *(the same in reply)*. Wouldn't miss it for anything. Pick you up at home?

SANDY *(shakes her head quickly)*. Better meet me. I'll be at the Dingo. *(They exchange a smile as she goes.)*

PONYBOY. She's different.

SODAPOP. From what?

PONYBOY. From the only girls that'll look at greasers—tough, loud girls with too much eye make-up, who swear too much. *(Looking after her.)* I like Sandy.

SODAPOP. She doesn't have it easy. She's got school, a job, and nothing but trouble at home.

PONYBOY. Soda?

SODAPOP. Yeah?

PONYBOY. How come you dropped out of school? I could hardly stand it when you left school.

SODAPOP. It's 'cause I'm dumb. The only things I was passing were auto mechanics and gym.

PONYBOY. You're not dumb.

SODAPOP. I am. Shut up and I'll tell you something. Don't tell Darry.

PONYBOY. Okay.

SODAPOP. I think I'm gonna marry Sandy. After she gets out of school and I get a better job and everything. *(Considering PONYBOY.)* I might wait till you get out of school though. So I can help Darry with the bills.

PONYBOY *(approving)*. Tuff enough! *(Then with alarm.)* Only wait till I get out, so you can keep Darry off my back.

SODAPOP *(sharply)*. Don't be like that. I told you he doesn't mean half what he says. He's just got more worries than someone his age ought to. He's really proud of you because you're brainy.

PONYBOY. Sure.

STOP