

**Background to Action**

In chapter 4 of *The Outsiders*, Ponyboy remarks that things seem to be happening too fast. Readers may agree. By tuning in to key elements such as *setting* and *mood*, readers can slow down the pace. **Setting** is the background of time and place where the action unfolds. **Mood** is the emotional reaction that the reader has to the scene. Being aware of setting and mood enriches your understanding of the action and helps you to put events in perspective.

**Directions:**

1. For each event listed, identify the **setting**
2. Pick one or two words from the box below to describe the **mood** of the scene (or use your own words).
3. Describe how the setting contributes to the mood. Explain your answer.

Mood words

violent	shocking	uneasy
tense	embarrassing	revealing
wild	bitter	reflective
inspiring	calm	disturbing
frightening	creepy	

1. Event: The Socs threaten Pony and his friends and then drive home with the Socs girls; Cherry and Marcia.

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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2. Event: Pony and Johnny stargaze

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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3. Event: Darry hits Pony

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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4. Event: Johnny kills Bob

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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5. Event: Pony and Johnny get a plan from Dally

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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6. Event: Pony and Johnny board the train

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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7. Event: Pony and Johnny jump off the train

Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

Mood: \_\_\_\_\_

How does the setting contribute to the mood?

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### Quick Matching: Causes and Effects

Directions: Match each action or decision (effect) with the reason that it occurred (cause). Each answer may be used only once.

Effect	Cause
__ 1. Dally directs the boys to Windrixville because...	a. They need money, a gun and a plan.
__ 2. Ponyboy says, "It ain't fair!" because...	b. This may keep the boys from fighting.
__ 3. Two-Bit flips out his switchblade because...	c. Darry hit Pony.
__ 4. Pony and Johnny seek out Dally because...	d. He wants to ask for directions.
__ 5. Ponyboy hasn't been to church lately because...	e. There is a hideout there.
__ 6. Cherry agrees to ride home with Bob because...	f. He wanted to buy Soda a horse.
__ 7. Socs attack Pony and Johnny because...	g. His friends' behaviour embarrassed him
__ 8. Ponyboy saves his money for a year because...	h. He is threatened by the Socs.
__ 9. Pony cries in front of Johnny because...	i. The greasers picked up Soc girls.
__ 10. Pony talks to a farmer because...	j. The Socs have life easier than greasers.