Alex Dunphy

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Mrs. Doerr

2nd period

The Brilliance of Cherry Valance

When Cherry Valance tells PonyBoy that “things are rough all over”(35), she quickly summarizes the difficulty of growing up. PonyBoy had just explained why Johnny was “jumpier than ever”(34), and he believed that the Greasers lived tough and dangerous lives. Cherry disagreed and tried to prove to PonyBoy that “not all of us are like that”(34). She knew that she was different since she was a cheerleader and “dressed sharp”(21). But Cherry was trying to put into plain words that all young people struggled with families and addictions and hard times. This reminds me of my own situation. In our family, my sister and I are completely different. I think Haley is perfect because she is pretty and all of the boys like her. But she thinks I am a weirdo because I am smart and focus on school. Both of us think the other one is worse off, but the truth is that both of us are under pressure. The characters in The Outsiders are similar to my own life even though the setting of the book and 2011 are decades apart. No matter what year it is, Cherry is right in saying “things are rough all over.”