

*That Was Then, This Is Now* Reading Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1

1. Where, how, and with whom does the book begin?
2. Who is the narrator?
3. What do you learn about Bryon in Chapter 1?
4. Who is Charlie?
5. Describe Mark.
6. Who is M & M?
7. Discuss Mark's view of stealing.
8. What is Bryon's rep?
9. Who is Curly Shepard?
10. Explain M & M's comment, "You think I'm weird—well, you're the weird ones."

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Chapter 2

1. What is Bryon's family situation?
2. How do the boys view stealing differently?
3. Who is Randy? Where does he live?
4. Why does Bryon claim he couldn't go out for football?
5. Why does Bryon not respect the police?
6. Who does Bryon meet at the snack bar?
7. Who is Mike Chambers and what has happened to him?
8. Why does Connie do what she does?
9. How do Bryon and Mark react differently to Mike's story?
10. What questions arise from Bryon's statements that end the chapter?

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Chapter 3

1. Why does Charlie not give Bryon a job?
2. Explain Charlie's statement, "You just think about it, and I think you'll come up with a reason why you haven't got a job before now."
3. Why does Bryon borrow Charlie's car?
4. Who is Angela Shepard?
5. What does Bryon say about "friends?"
6. How does Mr. Carlson treat M & M?
7. Explain Bryon's comment, "I took it as a matter of fact that Mark was different from other people and was therefore treated differently" (46).
8. Who is Curtis?
9. Explain Bryon's comment, "You know what the crummiest feeling you can have is? To hate the person you love best in the world" (49).
10. What happens in the parking lot? What caused it?
11. What do you learn about Mark's father?

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Chapter 4

1. What new problem does Charlie have?
2. List three (3) memories the boys have of their childhood.
3. Explain Bryon's statement, "It was a normal childhood."
4. Explain Mark's comment, "Do you ever get the feeling that the whole thing is changin'?" Like somethin' is coming to an end because somethin' else is beginning" (61).
5. Explain Bryon's note, "The difference is that was then, and this in now" (62).
6. Why is harder to tell a Greaser from a Soc?
7. Why does Bryon decide the Socs let him hang around them?
8. What new trouble is Mark in?
9. Why did he do it? How does it turn out?
10. What animal is Mark compared to? Why?

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Chapter 5

1. How does Bryon's mother face the trouble the boys get into?
2. Explain Bryon's opinion of parents' control over their kids.
3. Explain Mike's comment, "I wish I were dead—or somebody else."
4. How are Bryon's feelings about Cathy different than his feelings for Angela?
5. Why did Charlie get turned down for the draft?
6. Explain how the boys hustled pool.
7. Describe what happens with the Texans.
8. How does Bryon react to Charlie's death? How does Mark?
9. How is Bryon's relationship with Cathy different than any other he's had with a girl?
10. Explain Bryon's comment, "I was changing and he wasn't" (81).

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Chapter 6

1. How does Bryon feel about punishing the Texans?
2. Why is Bryon so “shook up” about Charlie’s death?
3. How does Bryon change his approach to job hunting?
4. Why is Cathy worried about M & M?
5. What does Bryon say about love (87)?
6. What is the Ribbon?
7. Explain Mark’s comment, “A hit don’t have to be physical” (90).
8. Why do Cathy and Mark dislike each other?
9. Explain Bryon’s statement, “In the past I thought in terms of ‘we,’ now I was thinking in terms of ‘me’.”
10. What does M & M decide to do?
11. What new emotion does Bryon feel?

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Chapter 7

1. How does Cathy react to the news about M & M?
2. Explain Mark's comment, "Nothing bad happens to you when you're a kid" (99).
3. What is happening between Mark and Bryon?
4. How do the boys each help the family financial situation?
5. What are some of Angela's problems?
6. What does Mark do to Angela? Why?
7. Explain Mark's comment, "I guess cause nothing' bad had ever happened to me" (106).
8. Why does everyone like Mark?
9. Why did Mark's father shoot his mother?
10. What was Mark's reaction to his parents' deaths?

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11. Explain Mark's statement, "You start wondering why, and you get old."

Chapter 8

1. Why do Mark and Bryon Come close to fighting?
2. Who is "Cat?"
3. Describe the house Mark takes Bryon to.
4. Who is "Baby Freak?"
5. Explain Bryon's statement, "But I'm not sure I'd consider them free, either" (117).
6. Explain Mark's comment, "I'm a tough punk Bryon, but I ain't dumb".
7. How did Bryon and Cathy start going steady?
8. Why are Tim and Curly after Bryon?
9. What do they do to Bryon?
10. Explain Bryon's comment, "A reputation is one hell of a thing to have, you got to kill yourself to keep it" (121).



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11. What does Bryon insist Mark not do?

Chapter 9

1. How does Bryon feel after the beating? How does Mark feel?

2. Explain Mark's statement, "I never worry about 'what if'."

3. What is Bryon about to say to Cathy, finally?

4. Why does Bryon go to the cemetery?

5. What is a 'travel agent'?

6. What is wrong with M&M?

7. How has M&M changed?

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Chapter 10

1. What is M&M's long term recovery chances?
2. What does Bryon find under the mattress?
3. What does he discover Mark had been doing?
4. What does Bryon decide to do?
5. What is Mark's excuse?
6. What does Bryon realize about Mark's values?
7. What happens to Mark?

Chapter 11

1. What was the mother's reaction to Mark being arrested?
2. How did the whole situation affect Bryon?
3. How did Mark act at the trial?
4. What was the outcome of the trial?
5. What was bothering M & M?
6. What became of Cathy?
7. Why couldn't Mark have any visitors at the reformatory?
8. Why did the authorities want Bryon to visit Mark?
9. How did Mark react toward Bryon now?
10. What finally happened to Mark?