



### ■ Figure Stating

One characteristic of Pony's writing style is the inclusion of many figures of speech, especially *similes* and *metaphors* when he is making comparisons.

A simile uses the words "as" or "like" to compare things. "The cat was as black as the dark side of the moon" is an example of a simile. Here the blackness of the cat is compared to the color of the dark side of the moon.

A comparison also may be merely suggested through *metaphor*. A metaphor does not use the words "as" or "like." "Chris covered his plate with a mountain of mashed potatoes" is an example of metaphor. Here the heap of potatoes is compared to a mountain.



#### Directions

Decide whether each of the following examples from chapters 5 and 6 is a simile or metaphor. Circle the appropriate letter.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Dally grinned wolfishly   | S | M |
| 2. the cinders and embers sting and smart like ants                                    | S | M |
| 3. Pony sees a ribbon of highway   | S | M |
| 4. the water is like liquid ice  | S | M |
| 5. explosions from the fire sound like gunfire   | S | M |
| 6. living with his haircut is like living in a Halloween costume Pony can't get out of | S | M |
| 7. Pony fears he'll drown in the smoke   | S | M |
| 8. Dally's word is law   | S | M |
| 9. the horizon was a thin golden line  | S | M |
| 10. being in a burning ember is like being in a red hell                               | S | M |
| 11. as in waves, memories rushed over Pony   | S | M |
| 12. the silent moment at dawn when everything holds its breath                         | S | M |

*continued*

**Literary Skills: Simile & Metaphor**

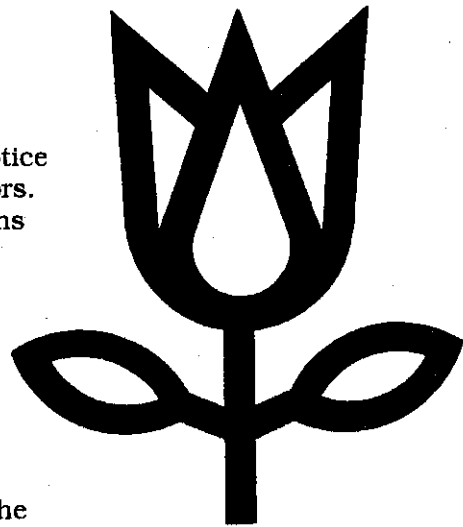
Figure Stating  
Chapters 5-6

**One Step Further**

In chapter 5 of *The Outsiders*, Ponyboy recites Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay." Reread the poem and notice how Frost expresses his message with the help of metaphors. Two metaphors from the poem are restated in simpler terms below.

Youth is gold.  
Youth is a flower.

Now use these metaphors to answer the following questions.



**Questions**

1. List two ways that youth might be compared to gold (the metal).
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. List two ways that youth might be compared to a flower.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Do you agree with Frost's metaphors that "youth is gold" or "youth is a flower"? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Write another simile or metaphor for youth. Explain why your comparison is appropriate. \_\_\_\_\_  
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