

Characters
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Conflict

Liu 4

the world. He couldn't handle the surge of emotions he blocked off for so long. The feelings of betrayal, guilt and sorrow overwhelmed him, and he just snapped, and it led to his suicide at the hands of the police who shot him. He had cared about Johnny that much.

After understanding every aspect of Dally, it's evident he's more than just a hood. I would go as far as to say Dally was the most important character in *The Outsiders*. He was inherently criminal, but he wasn't all bad. He was the criminal that saved Pony and Johnny from a burning church that could have collapsed at any minute, the one that cared about Johnny like he was his own flesh and blood. Dally seemed inhuman and unfeeling at first, but as evidence by his later actions and violent death, he was just as vulnerable and human as the other Greasers. Most importantly, however, Dally unknowingly inspired Pony to not give up to despair like him, and to write about the hardships of the poor and underprivileged and tell the world about it, one English teacher at a time. This, I think is the most significant way his personality ended up shaping the story. He gave Pony—the one Greaser who had a chance in the world—the push that he needed to solve his internal conflict and find better for himself. And maybe Pony could end up being the one saving all the other Dallys and Johnnys hanging on a thread out there.