"He's dead--- his mother has had a nervous breakdown. They spoiled him rotten. I mean, most parents would be proud of a kid like that--- good-lookin' and smart and everything, but they gave in to him all the time. He kept trying to make someone say 'No' and they never did. They never did. That was what he wanted. For somebody to tell him 'No.' To have somebody lay down the law, set the limits, give him something solid to stand on. That's what we all want, really. One time..."--- Randy tried to grin, but I could tell he was close to tears--- "one time he came home drunker than anything. He thought sure they were gonna raise the roof. You know what they did? They thought it was something they'd done. They thought it was their fault--- that they'd failed him and driven him to it or something. They took all the blame and didn't do anything to him. If his old man had just belted him--- just once, he might still be alive. I don't know why I'm telling you this. I couldn't tell anyone else. My friends--- they'd think I was off my rocker or turning soft. Maybe I am. I just know that I'm sick of this whole mess." (pg. 116)

1. What does Randy mean by all of this? Make an inference about what Bob was searching for.

2. Do children want their parents to set limits? Why? (no quotes required)

You can't win, you know that, don't you?" And when I remained silent he went on: "You can't win, even if you whip us. You'll still be where you were before--- at the bottom. And we'll still be the lucky ones with all the breaks. So it doesn't do any good, the fighting and the killing. It doesn't prove a thing. We'll forget it if you win, or if you don't. Greasers will still be greasers and Soes will still be Socs. Sometimes I think it's the ones in the middle that are really the lucky stiffs..." (pg. 117)

3. What does Randy mean when he tells Ponyboy that he "can't win", even if they beat them in the rumble? Win at what? What's the REAL battle?

4. What does Randy mean when he says, "Sometimes I think it's the ones in the middle that are really the lucky stiffs" (Hinton 117)?

5. Now, come up with a critical thinking question of your own, connected with chapter 7.
   - It cannot be “yes/no” or simple answer questions
   - It must require thought, analysis, and the use of quotes from the text for support
   - YOU MUST PROVIDE AN ANSWER FOR YOUR OWN QUESTION