

**Write a paragraph to explain why the boys read this poem and its significance.**

Claim: Answer the prompt explicitly.

Evidence: Show examples from text.

Justification: Explain how examples prove claim.

Conclusion: Explain why this matters, why this is important and what it suggests.

In The Outsiders, Pony reads the poem “Nothing Gold Can Stay” because he heard Johnny talking about the sunset and he thought he would bring up the poem. This poem is significant because it relates to Johnny and Pony’s situations when they learn that not all good things last forever. The boys know a fight is coming and they may lose their turf or friends over the fight. The line in the poem “nothing gold can stay” suggests that good things don’t last. The poem relates to Johnny and Pony because they are currently learning this lesson about what is important in their lives. The author uses the poem to show that Pony and Johnny are realizing the importance of friends and family. The poem and the story show that anyone can learn to appreciate friends and family. People should take advantage of the good times before they are gone before they disappear.