

The "American dream has runaway from the greasers

Title reminds me of all the boys running from something: their families their lives, their misfortunes

### "Born To Run"

In the day we sweat it out on the streets of a runaway American dream  
At night we ride through the mansions of glory in suicide machines

"Sprung from cages": they act like

Sprung from cages out on highway 9,  
Chrome wheeled, fuel injected, and steppin' out over the line  
h-Oh, Baby this town rips the bones from your back

Perfect description of their town: "death trap" and its killing them: greasers and socs

tramp: a person who travels from place to place and doesn't have a home or much money = GREASERS

It's a death trap, it's a suicide rap  
We gotta get out while we're young  
`Cause tramps like us, baby we were born to run

yes, girl we were

Wendy let me in I wanna be your friend  
I want to guard your dreams and visions  
Just wrap your legs 'round these velvet rims  
and strap your hands 'cross my engines  
Together we could break this trap  
We'll run till we drop, baby we'll never go back  
h-Oh, Will you walk with me out on the wire  
`Cause baby I'm just a scared and lonely rider

Ponyboy finds a friend in Cherry Vallance, but they would have to "break this trap" of social and class division

Ponyboy tries to protect Cherry from the other greasers

But I gotta know how it feels  
I want to know if love is wild  
Babe I want to know if love is real

Ponyboy is the "scared and lonely rider" looking to feel loved

Oh, can you show me

Beyond the Palace hemi-powered drones scream down the boulevard

Girls comb their hair in rearview mirrors  
And the boys try to look so hard  
The amusement park rises bold and stark  
Kids are huddled on the beach in a mist

The Greasers! They try to look so tough and hard = survival

I wanna die with you Wendy on the street tonight  
In an everlasting kiss

amusement park is like the drive in, kids gather there, "huddle"

1-2-3-4!

The highway's jammed with broken heroes on a last chance power drive

Everybody's out on the run tonight  
but there's no place left to hide  
Together Wendy we can live with the sadness  
I'll love you with all the madness in my soul

"broken heroes" Johnny, Dally, Darry

h-Oh, Someday girl I don't know when  
we're gonna get to that place

Where we really wanna go  
and we'll walk in the sun

Ponyboy and Cherry have to escape their town to

Until then, he has to run

But till then tramps like us  
baby we were born to run

Oh honey, tramps like us  
baby we were born to run

Come on with me, tramps like us  
baby we were born to run

Ru-uh-uh-un  
Mm-mm-mm-mm  
Uh-uh-uh-oh-oh-oh-oh  
Ru-uh-uh-uh-un  
Mm-mm-mm-mm  
Whoa-oh-oh-oh  
Whoa-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh  
Ru-uh-uh-un

In summary: This song is about kids with little future, like the greasers, who are trapped in a dangerous dead end life. They know they are "tramps". Pony's only hope for happiness is and understanding is with Cherry, much like the speaker's happiness and freedom depends on Wendy. The speaker's life is hopeless other than for Wendy. The theme of the song is the hopelessness of lost American dream and the helpfulness of love.