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# GREAT EXPECTATIONS - CH 1 AND 2

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## PART ONE

### Chapter 1

Pip's story begins in the churchyard in the desolate marshland of North Kent. Pip is an orphan and he is visiting the graves of his parents and brothers when he is suddenly startled by the frightening figure of a prisoner who has escaped from the convict hulks moored in the Thames Estuary. Pip is terrified and the convict makes the young boy agree to bring him some food from home and a file to file off his leg-iron.

#### Questions

1. Make notes on the kind of setting and atmosphere that Dickens creates here. Jot down any descriptive parts that you find particularly striking.
2. What is your initial impression of Pip?
3. What is your initial impression of the convict?
4. Did you find any comic elements in this opening chapter?

### Chapter 2

When Pip returns home he learns from Joe Gargery, the blacksmith that his wife, Pip's sister, who is twenty years older than Pip and his only relative, has been looking for him. She wants to punish him for his 'ingratitude' and when she returns she furiously sets about him. Pip hides some of his food to take to the convict later. A gun is heard which signals the escape of a second prisoner from the hulks. That night Pip cannot sleep and restlessly waits for the dawn to arrive. When it does he raids the pantry for food and drink and taking a file from Joe's workshop he sets off for the marshes.

#### Questions

1. What impressions do you gain of Joe and Mrs. Joe?
2. What kind of atmosphere does Dickens create at Pip's home?
3. Describe the differing attitudes that Joe and Mrs. Joe take towards Pip. What kind of attitude do they have towards their marriage?
4. How does Dickens keep us in mind of the convict through this chapter?

## Chapter 3

As Pip makes his way across the marshes he suddenly comes across another convict who curses him and runs off. He meets the convict he came across the previous day and he watches him hungrily devour the food he has brought him. Pip tells him of the other man he has seen and the convict seems to recognise Pip's description. He desperately sets about filing away at his leg-iron and Pip slips away home.

### Questions

1. How does Pip feel about what he is doing?
2. How does he treat the convict?
3. Do you discover how the convicts feel about each other?
4. What kind of atmosphere does this chapter build up?

## Chapter 4

Christmas celebrations take place and we see fully the tyrannical attitude that Mrs. Joe shows to the household. Pip suffers much persecution at her hands and his worries increase as she searches for the pork pie that he took to the convict. In the end he rushes from the room and encounters a squad of soldiers at the door.

### Questions

1. How do you respond to Hubbles, Wopsle and Pumblechook?
2. How is Pip treated and what do you think about this?
3. How is tension created in this chapter?
4. What do you find comic in this chapter?

## Chapter 5

The soldiers are searching for the convicts and have brought some handcuffs for Joe to repair. This takes two hours and when complete Joe and Pip are allowed to come to watch the pursuit of the convicts across the marshes. Joe carries Pip on his back and as they go across the marsh they hear the sound of a fight. As they approach they see the two convicts fighting in a ditch. They are arrested by the soldiers and the second convict accuses the first of attempted murder while the first claims to have recaptured the other. The soldiers escort the prisoners away to return them to the Hulks. Pip and the others follow them - Pip's convict having given him a single but significant look.

### Questions

1. What do we learn about the two convicts?
2. Why do you think the first convict stares at Pip?
3. Why does he 'confess' to stealing from the forge?
4. What contrasts do you notice in this chapter?

## Chapter 6

Here we learn the reasons why Pip could not tell Joe about the file and also about the different ideas about how the convict could have robbed the pantry. Pip keeps quiet and admits to nothing.

### Questions

1. Why doesn't Pip own up here?
2. What different theories are there about how the convict could have robbed the pantry?
3. What humour have you found in this chapter?

## Chapter 7

We are given an account of Pip's basic education and of Joe's background which seems even harsher than Pip's own. There begins the first phase of Pip's 'expectations' when he receives an invitation to visit the wealthy eccentric Miss Havisham. We also see the important part played in Pip's life by Biddy and learn how Joe came to meet his wife. Pip is got ready for his visit the following day.

### Questions

1. Make notes on the kind of education Pip received. What is your impression of it?
2. What do Pip and Biddy have in common?
3. What do you learn about Joe's past in this chapter and how does it help to explain his present behaviour?
4. What plans have been made for Pip's future and how does he feel about them?

## Chapter 8

The following day Pip is taken to Satis House and on his way there he notices a pretty and proud-looking girl of about his own age. She leads him to Miss Havisham. She was abandoned on her wedding day and still wears her wedding dress. He is told to 'play' and the girl, Estella, is summoned and they play cards. Eventually he is dismissed and told to return in six days time.

### Questions

1. Write about your impressions of Satis House and of Miss Havisham.
2. What impression do you get of Estella. How does Pip feel about her and how do you think she feels about him?
3. Why are Pip's experiences in this chapter important in his development?

## Chapter 9

Pip is reluctant to reveal what has happened at Satis House and he invents the details of his experience. Later Pip reveals to Joe that it was all invention. Joe is shocked that Pip has told lies and lectures him on the importance of telling the truth.

### Questions

1. Why does Pip lie about what happened at Satis House?
2. Has his perception of Joe changed at all?
3. Why does Pip claim that the day has been a turning point in his life?

## Chapter 10

In an effort to not be 'common' Pip asks Biddy to teach him all she can in order to try to make up for the inadequacies of the education he had received. A stranger meets Pip and Joe at the inn and he gives Pip mysterious looks and stirs his drink with a file which is clearly meant as a sign. As they leave he gives Pip a shilling wrapped in paper which turns out to be two pound notes. Pip is disturbed by this connection between himself and anyone so 'common' as a convict.

### Questions

1. What is your impression of the kind of education Pip received at Mr. Wopsle's great aunt's 'establishment'?
2. Make notes on the events that take place at the Jolly Bargeman. What do you think is the significance of this episode?

## Chapter 11

On his next visit to Satis House Pip meets Jaggers, a lawyer, and some of Miss Havisham's relatives who are visiting her on her birthday. It is clear that these relatives are really concerned with Miss Havisham's money. Estella is called for and she and Pip play cards. Once again Pip loses. Later, roaming in the garden he comes across a boy of about his own age who insists on fighting him.

### Questions

1. Make notes on the various members of the Pocket family.
2. What is your impression of Miss Havisham's relatives?
3. What do you learn about Miss Havisham's past in this chapter?
4. How do you respond to the fight scene?

## Chapter 12

On his next visit Pip is relieved to find that there are no repercussions from his fight with the boy, Herbert Pocket. Pip now has to spend hours wheeling Miss Havisham around the grounds in her wheelchair. This is to be his duty every other day, although he receives no payment for his pains. As the months pass Pip becomes more and more captivated by Estella despite her teasing and taunts. Miss Havisham seems to take great pleasure in how much she taunts Pip. One day Joe and Pip are called to Satis House as Miss Havisham wants to see Pip apprenticed.

### Questions

1. What is the importance of Miss Havisham's arranging for Pip to be bound as Joe's apprentice?
2. How does Pip feel about this arrangement?
3. How does Pip feel about Estella?

## Chapter 13

Estella leads them to Miss Havisham's room and Miss Havisham gives Joe twenty-five guineas as Pip's apprenticeship fee, saying that the boy has earned this in working for her. On their return Joe makes up some of the details of the transaction to appease his wife and Pip is taken off to be bound as an apprentice.

### Questions

1. Why does Joe invent the details of the transaction?
2. How does Pumblechook behave in this chapter?
3. How does Pip feel about the events in this chapter?

## Chapter 14

Pip is unhappy with his home life and work at Joe's forge. He sees no future there and feels depressed at the thought of Estella seeing him working in such humble surroundings.

### Questions

1. Why is Pip unhappy with his life at the forge?
2. Make notes on how he feels about:  
a) Joe; b) Estella; c) his future.

## Chapter 15

Orlick, Joe's assistant becomes embroiled in an argument over a half day's holiday. Mrs. Joe refuses him and when the man screams insults at her Joe is forced to intervene and knocks him down. On visiting Satis House Pip finds that Estella has gone abroad to a finishing school. Returning home Pip meets Wopsle and calls at Pumblechook's. On their way to the village they meet Orlick and when they reach the forge they find that Mrs. Joe has been attacked and paralysed by a blow.

### Questions

1. Why does Pip try to educate Joe?
2. Make notes on the incident involving Orlick. How do you respond to this character?
3. How does Miss Havisham treat Pip?

## Chapter 16

The only clue to the identity of the attacker is a convict's leg-iron that has been filed off. Pip assumes that it must be the one his convict freed himself from that had been picked up and used as a weapon by Mrs. Joe's attacker. Even Joe comes under suspicion and as Mrs. Joe has been permanently disabled in the attack Biddy takes over the running of the household affairs.

### Questions

1. What is Mrs. Joe's attitude towards Orlick and what is significant about the finding of the leg iron?
2. How do you respond to the investigation into the attack on Mrs. Joe?
3. What is your impression of Biddy here?

## Chapter 17

Pip's annual visit to Satis House on his birthday has become a ritual and his admiration for Bidley grows. Walking with her one day he confides in her his feelings about being 'common'. Bidley tells him that Orlick is paying attention to her and visits the house regularly.

### Questions

1. What inner-conflict does Pip experience at this stage of the novel?
2. How does Pip feel about Bidley? How is she different to Estella?
3. What is the significance of Orlick paying attention to Bidley?

## Chapter 18

Pip is now in the fourth year of his apprenticeship. Jaggers, after talking to Wopsle, comes home with Joe and Pip and reveals that an unnamed benefactor has provided money for Pip to be properly educated ready for the day when he will inherit the entire estate. Matthew Pocket is mentioned as a possible tutor for him. Joe gladly releases Pip from his apprenticeship. The connection of Jaggers and Pocket with Satis House makes Pip suspect that Miss Havisham is his mystery benefactor. Pip is sad to be leaving Bidley and Joe, his two best friends and has mixed feelings about this opportunity to escape from his 'commonness'.

### Questions

1. What is the importance of Jaggers's announcement?
2. What do you think about the news that Matthew Pocket is to be involved?
3. Make a note of the conditions that Pip has to agree to. Why do you think that there is so much secrecy?

## Chapter 19

Pip's last few days at home and his feelings are very mixed. He regrets that Joe has not responded better to his efforts to get him to 'improve' himself. Bidley defends Joe and this annoys Pip who accuses her of being jealous. Pip spends his last day on a visit to Miss Havisham. He wears his new suit. Miss Havisham does nothing to dispel his belief that she is his mystery benefactor. The following day Pip says goodbye and sets out for London.

### Questions

1. How do the others respond to the news of Pip's 'expectations'?
2. How does Pip feel about Joe now? How does he feel about leaving for London?

## PART TWO

### Chapter 20

Pip's first impressions of London are not favourable and his visit to Jaggers's office does nothing to alter this. Jaggers gives Pip the details of his accommodation and allowance and he is taken to Herbert Pocket's rooms by the clerk, Wemmick.

#### Questions

1. Describe Pip's first impressions of London.
2. What is your impression of Jaggers at work?
3. How does Wemmick appear to you?

### Chapter 21

Arriving at Pocket's rooms Pip is surprised to find that his companion is to be the boy with whom he fought at Satis House long ago.

#### Questions

1. What is your impression of Barnard's Inn?
2. What do you think of Herbert?

### Chapter 22

Herbert tells Pip the full story of Miss Havisham and of her scheme to take her revenge on the male sex. Pip tells Herbert about his own background and later visits Herbert's home in Hammersmith and meets his mother and father. Herbert's father has been proposed by Jaggers as Herbert's tutor.

#### Questions

1. Make notes on Miss Havisham's story as related by Herbert and what you learn about her past.
2. What does Pip learn about Herbert?

## Chapter 23

We are shown the Pocket family and see that the unassuming Herbert is like his father, Matthew and quite different to his mother. We also learn a good deal about the background of the Pocket family and Pip meets various people and situations which contribute to his learning experiences.

### Questions

1. What are your impressions of the Pocket family? Make notes on its various members.
2. Make notes on the other characters that Pip meets in this chapter.

## Chapter 24

Pip obtains an advance from Jaggers to furnish his own room. When Jaggers leaves Wemmick tells Pip about Jagger's crafty and dubious dealing. He invites Pip to visit him at his home and then takes Pip to watch Jaggers in action in court.

### Questions

1. Make notes on the roles that the following play in this chapter:  
a) Matthew Pocket; b) Jaggers; c) Wemmick.

## Chapter 25

Pip's education continues under the tuition of Matthew Pocket. Pip does not think much to his fellow students but he is making good progress. He goes to Wemmick's house and meets Wemmick's father. He also learns a little more about Jaggers.

### Questions

1. How do the Pockets feel about Pip?
2. What is family life like at Walworth?

## Chapter 26

Pip and his friends dine with Jaggers. An argument develops about the lending of money and Drummle turns violent and is prevented from throwing a glass at Startop by Jaggers.

### Questions

1. Why is Jaggers interested in Drummle and what does he say to Pip about him?
2. What is significant about Molly?

## Chapter 27

Joe comes to London to visit Pip but Pip is embarrassed by Joe's awkward behaviour and Joe, in turn, feels out of place and ill-at-ease. Pip feels guilty though, when he learns that Joe has come specially to tell him that Estella has returned and would like to see him. After giving a simple and dignified speech Joe leaves, leaving Pip with feelings of guilt.

### Questions

1. How does Pip respond to Joe? How does Joe feel about his visit?
2. How does Herbert treat Joe?
3. How does Pip feel at the end of the chapter?

## Chapter 28

Pip sets out to visit Satis House and decides to stay overnight at the Blue Boar. He is reminded of the past by the two convicts who travel on the same coach. One of them he recognises as the person who had given him the pound notes long before. He overhears the conversation between the two and realises that the money had been a reward for helping the convict Magwitch on the marshes.

### Questions

1. Make notes on what happens during Pip's journey to Satis House.
2. According to the newspapers what has Pumblechook been claiming about himself and Pip?

## Chapter 29

Pip dreams of marrying Estella as he prepares to visit Satis House. On arrival there he finds that Orlick is now the porter there. He is shown in to Miss Havisham and Estella. Estella has now grown into a beautiful young woman. He walks Estella in the garden and she warns him that she has no heart. He returns and wheels Miss Havisham as he had done as a boy and she urges him to love Estella. After dinner Pip returns to the Blue Boar feeling guilty that he has not been to see Joe.

### Questions

1. How does Orlick respond to Pip?
2. What does Estella tell Pip about herself? Why do you think she warns him?
3. What does Miss Havisham have to say about Pip, Estella and love?

## Chapter 30

The following day Pip leaves early to avoid Pumblechook and he meets Trabb's boy who mocks him in the street. Back in London Pip tells Herbert about his love for Estella and he hears about Herbert's engagement to Clara. The two decide to go to see Wopsle's performance in Hamlet.

### Questions

1. What is your response to the Trabb's boy's behaviour?
2. What do you notice about Herbert's attitude to Estella?
3. What do you think is the significance of the introduction of Clara at this point?

## Chapter 31

Pip and Herbert find the production of Hamlet amusing and farcical in places. After the performance they invite Wopsle to supper and have to endure a lengthy account of his ambitions in the theatre.

### Questions

1. What do you find comic in this chapter?
2. What is your impression of Wopsle?

## Chapter 32

Pip receives a letter from Estella telling him that she is coming to London and giving her time of arrival. Pip goes to meet her. He turns up far too early though and he bumps into Wemmick who persuades him to go visit Newgate Prison with him. Pip learns more from Wemmick about the influence that Jaggers has in the criminal world.

### Questions

1. How does Pip respond to Estella's letter?
2. What is your impression of Newgate?
3. Make a note of what Pip learns from Wemmick about Jaggers's influence?

## Chapter 33

Pip escorts Estella to Richmond where she is staying with a lady who will introduce her into London society. At Richmond Pip notes that the house at which Estella is to stay has clearly seen better days.

### Questions

1. Why is Estella going to Richmond?
2. What do you notice about Estella's attitude in this chapter?

## Chapter 34

There is a pause in the development of the storyline while Pip examines the effect of his 'expectations' on himself and those close to him. He and Herbert examine their lifestyle and their debts. Pip receives a letter telling him of the death of his sister.

### Questions

1. Make notes on Pip's reflections on his 'expectations' focusing on how he feels about:  
a) himself; b) his old life and Joe.

## Chapter 35

Pip attends the funeral and afterwards has dinner with Joe and Biddy. Biddy is leaving the forge and hopes to teach in the village. Pip tells Biddy that he will visit Joe often but she appears sceptical of this.

### Questions

1. What is the substance of Pip's talk with Biddy?
2. What is your assessment of Pip's relationship with Joe at this point?
3. Why do you think Biddy responds as she does to the idea of Pip visiting Joe frequently?

## Chapter 36

As Pip's twenty-first birthday approaches his hopes for an improvement in his financial circumstances are raised. Jaggers invites him to his office and Pip is told that his annual income is to be five hundred pounds a year. This will be paid quarterly until his benefactor himself appears. Pip mentions to Wemmick his desire to help Herbert financially and he invites Jaggers to dinner.

### Questions

1. What do you think of Jaggers attitude to and treatment of Pip?
2. How do you respond to Pip in this chapter?

## Chapter 37

The following Sunday Pip goes to the Wemmick's at Walworth where he meets Wemmick's lady friend, Miss Skiffins. Wemmick recommends Miss Skiffins brother as an agent to help secure a partnership for Herbert with a city brokers. After various negotiations Herbert is offered one.

### Questions

1. Make notes on how Pip helps Herbert here?
2. Have you found any comic elements in this chapter?
3. What do you think about Pip at the end of this chapter?

## Chapter 38

Pip's relations with Estella are examined. Pip describes the torment of accompanying Estella to various functions and parties while at the same time she cannot become close to him as arranged by Miss Havisham. Pip gives an account of the visits to Satis House and of the quarrel between Estella and Miss Havisham.

At a gathering later the unpleasant Drummle, who is an admirer of Estella, proposes a toast to her and is challenged to a duel by Pip. This is averted as Estella does seem to be giving Drummle some encouragement. Her comments lead Pip to suspect that she may be leading Drummle on to entrap him.

### Questions

1. How does Pip feel about Estella and Miss Havisham in this chapter?
2. What do Estella and Miss Havisham quarrel about?
3. What is the dispute about between Drummle and Pip?

## Chapter 39

Pip is twenty-three now and has moved with Herbert into rooms in the Temple. One stormy night Magwitch returns and tells Pip that he is his mystery benefactor. This revelation both surprises and disappoints Pip as Magwitch is just the kind of character that he wanted no contact with, conscious as he is of his present status.

### Questions

1. How is Magwitch described here? Compare this description with that given in the first chapter.
2. How does Pip react to Magwitch's appearance?
3. What is Magwitch's reaction to meeting Pip again?

## PART THREE

### Chapter 40

Early next day Pip comes across a stranger on the stair (we later find him to have been Orlick) but he disappears and Pip cannot find him. Pip learns that Magwitch has returned under the assumed name of 'Provis' and Pip decides to pass him off as his uncle. He finds clothes and some lodgings for him and then goes to see Jaggers to verify the story he has heard. He learns that the news is true and that all his hopes are shattered. A few days later Herbert returns and Pip tells him what has happened.

#### Questions

1. What is Magwitch's attitude to Pip and what is Pip's to him?
2. What problems face Pip and Magwitch?

### Chapter 41

Pip and Herbert discuss the whole situation. Pip is worried that if he refuses to have anything to do with Magwitch the ex-convict will give himself up. Herbert suggests the only possible solution - they must get Magwitch out of the country, and they decide that Pip must go with him. The following morning when Pip sees Magwitch he asks him more about his past life.

#### Questions

1. What does Pip worry about here?
2. What seems to be his only course of action?

## Chapter 42

Magwitch tells the story of his upbringing and his association with Compeyson who had become his partner in a forgery racket. It seems that Compeyson had been responsible for planning the crimes and Magwitch had carried them out. The two had been caught and brought to trial but Magwitch had received double the sentence handed out to Compeyson. They had both been on the same Hulk and Magwitch had sworn to get his revenge. They both escaped onto the marshes but Magwitch had caught Compeyson and both had been re-arrested. This time Magwitch had been given a life sentence. It seems that Compeyson had been the one who had swindled Miss Havisham and abandoned her on her wedding day.

### Questions

1. Make notes on what happens to Magwitch here and the operation of the justice system.
2. What role does Compeyson play in the plot?

## Chapter 43

Before leaving England Pip knows that he must see Estella and Miss Havisham and so he decides to visit Satis House. He stays at the Blue Boar and has an unpleasant encounter with Drummle who he meets there and who makes it clear that he is to have dinner with Estella.

### Questions

1. Make notes on Pip's encounter with Drummle at the Blue Boar.
2. What is your impression of Pip here?

## Chapter 44

At Satis House Pip tells Miss Havisham what he thinks of her deception and he praises Matthew and Herbert Pocket, telling her how favourably they compare to her other relations. He tells her of his love for Estella but he is told that she is to marry Drummle. He is distraught and, declaring his undying love for Estella he returns to London. On his return, though, he receives a note from Wemmick warning him not to return to his rooms.

### Questions

1. What does Pip have to say to Miss Havisham?
2. How does she respond?
3. What is the significance of the note from Wemmick?

## Chapter 45

Pip spends a sleepless night in a lodging house and the following day sees Wemmick. He is told that he is being watched and that enquiries are being made about Magwitch. Compeyson is in London and Wemmick has arranged with Herbert for Magwitch to be moved to a house down river.

### Questions

1. Why is Pip so troubled?
2. What do we learn about Compeyson?
3. What are Herbert's arrangements for 'Provis' and why are they so suitable?
4. What is Wemmick's role here?

## Chapter 46

Pip finds the house down river and Magwitch (now going under the name of Mr. Campbell) has agreed to leave England with Pip. As part of the plan to get him secretly away Pip and Herbert start to row regularly on the Thames to avoid suspicion when the time comes to row out to the ship that

### Questions

1. Make notes on the details of the plan to get Magwitch away.
2. How does Dickens increase the sense of being watched here?

is to take them away.

## Chapter 47

Weeks go by as they wait in suspense for words from Wemmick. Pip has refused to take any more of Magwitch's money and is now in financial difficulties. Pip visits the theatre one night and is told by Wopsle that he has seen someone looking like Compeyson sitting behind Pip in the theatre seats. Pip and Herbert decided to be even more careful and a letter is sent to Wemmick.

### Questions

1. What is the dramatic effect of this chapter?

## Chapter 48

Pip has dinner with Wemmick at Jagger's rooms and is given a note from Miss Havisham asking him to go to see her. Pip is struck by the housekeeper's resemblance to Estella and asks Wemmick about her.

### Questions

1. Why does Miss Havisham want to see Pip?
2. What further details do you learn about Molly?

## Chapter 49

Pip goes to see Miss Havisham and she gives him nine hundred pounds to buy Herbert's partnership. She asks Pip for his forgiveness for the wrong she has done. She explains that originally she had only intended to save Estella from the fate that she had suffered. She tells Pip that Estella had been brought to her at the age of three as an orphan by Jaggers. Pip leaves but returns to find her clothing on fire. He smothers the flames and the doctor is sent for. Pip returns to London the following day.

### Questions

1. How do you respond to Miss Havisham here?
2. What are your feelings at the end of the chapter?

## Chapter 50

Pip is suffering from the burns he received in trying to save Miss Havisham and is nursed by Herbert. It becomes apparent that Magwitch is Estella's father.

### Questions

1. What further do you learn about Magwitch in this chapter?

## Chapter 51

Pip lets Jaggers know who Estella's father is but he is reluctant to discuss the mother further. Pip appeals to Jaggers to tell him more and is told that Estella was taken from her mother, Molly the housekeeper, to be brought up by Miss Havisham. Jaggers tells him that it would be better if this information about Estella remains a secret.

### Questions

1. Why is Pip so interested in establishing the facts about Estella's parentage?
2. Make notes on what he learns from Jaggers.

## Chapter 52

Herbert is to take charge of a new office that his firm is to open. A secret note from Wemmick urges them to get Magwitch out of the country on the following Wednesday. Arrangements are made and Magwitch warned to be ready. On the Monday Pip receives an anonymous note telling him if he goes secretly to a meeting place on the marshes he will be given information about 'Provis'.

### Questions

1. What do the 'two letters' mean to Pip?
2. What is the effect of the reappearance of Pumblechook?

## Chapter 53

Pip makes his way by moonlight across the marshes and, on reaching the meeting place, he is grabbed by Orlick and tied to a ladder. Orlick intends to kill him and burn his body in the lime-kiln. Just in time he is rescued by Herbert and the others but Orlick escapes across the marsh.

### Questions

1. What are Orlick's grievances?
2. Note how Pip comes to be rescued.
3. How has the Trabb's boy's attitude changed towards Pip?

## Chapter 54

Next morning Pip, Herbert and Startop row down river and pick up Magwitch. They continue down river to Gravesend and spend the night at a lonely inn. The following morning they are about to shout to the steamer when a police boat pulls alongside. Magwitch is called on to surrender but Magwitch pulls the cloak off a muffled figure in the boat to reveal Compeyson. The steamer, moving down river, runs down Pip's boat. The three men are rescued but Compeyson and Magwitch are fighting in the water. Compeyson is drowned and Magwitch is captured.

### Questions

1. Make notes on the sequence of events in this chapter.
2. How does Pip feel about Magwitch now?
3. What is the significance of Magwitch's pocket book being confiscated?

## Chapter 55

Magwitch is sent to trial and Jaggers holds out little hope of recovering his wealth which has been seized. Herbert offers Pip a clerkship in his office. It is explained that their plan had failed because of Compeyson. Pip is asked to be the best man at Wemmick's wedding.

### Questions

1. What effect does Wemmick's wedding have on the tone of the chapter?
2. What is the irony of Herbert offering Pip work in the business?

## Chapter 56

Magwitch, who had been seriously injured by the steamer's paddles, is seriously ill in the prison infirmary. Pip visits him each day. Eventually he is sentenced to death and although Pip writes letters of appeal it is no use. However, Magwitch dies before he can be executed but before he does Pip tells him that his daughter is a beautiful young lady who he loves dearly.

### Questions

1. What is your response to Magwitch's death here?
2. What impression of 'Justice' do you get?

## Chapter 57

After the anxious times that Pip has been through he now falls ill. During his illness he is summoned for debt. After some weeks he regains consciousness and finds Joe at his bedside. Joe has nursed him through his illness and now tells him that Miss Havisham is dead and that she has left four thousand pounds to Matthew Pocket. He also tells him that Orlick is in prison. Joe settles Pip's debt and leaves for home when Pip is recovered. Three days later Pip follows him having decided to ask Bidley to marry him.

### Questions

1. Make notes of the fates of:  
a) Miss Havisham; b) Orlick; c) Pumblechook.
2. What is ironical about Pip falling into debt despite all that has happened?

## Chapter 58

When Pip returns to Satis House he finds it organised in lots ready for sale. He finds the schoolroom shut up but then he meets Joe and Bidley who have just got married. Pip overcomes his shock and wishes them well, telling them that he is to go abroad to earn money to repay Joe. Pip goes to work for Herbert's firm in the Cairo office and when Herbert returns to England to marry Clara, Pip is left in charge. He spends several years living happily with Herbert and Clara.

### Questions

1. Make notes on the key points of this chapter.
2. How do you think Pip feels when he meets Joe and Bidley?

## Chapter 59

After eleven years Pip returns to England. He visits the forge to see Bidley and Joe. He revisits Satis House, now in ruins. He is amazed to find Estella there, now a widow after the death of her husband, Drummle, who had treated her badly for years. She too has come to visit the place and tells Pip that the ground is hers and she is having a last look at it before some new building takes place. Estella's suffering has caused her to change and she asks Pip if he still forgives her. Together they leave Satis House for the last time.

### Questions

1. How have Pip and Estella changed when they meet again?
2. What do you make of the ending of the novel?

# MAKING NOTES - CHECKLIST

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## PART ONE

Make sure that you have covered the following areas in your notes on Part One:

- Pip's 'Great Expectations',
- The relationship between Pip and Joe,
- Miss Havisham,
- The consequences of the convict's escape,
- Pip's experiences at Satis House,
- Estella and the idea of love and revenge,
- The different atmospheres that Dickens creates,
- The effect the presence of Orlick has on the novel,
- The role of Jaggers,
- The humorous elements of the story.

## PART TWO

Make sure that you have covered the following areas in your notes on Part Two:

- The relationship between Pip and Herbert,
- The various aspects of London life,
- The changes in Estella's attitudes towards Pip,
- Miss Havisham/Magwitch,
- Changes in Pip's relationship with Joe Love and relationships, -  
Pip/Estella; Herbert/Clara; Wemmick/Miss Skiffins
- The role of money.

## PART THREE

Make sure that you have covered the following areas in your notes on Part Three:

- The plans for Magwitch's escape and what goes wrong,
- Pip's connections with Miss Havisham,
- The effects of the past,
- The different atmospheres that Dickens creates,
- Your responses to the ending of the novel.

## THEMES

Here are some suggested thematic areas. Think carefully about each one and then make notes on how each is developed in the novel.

Self-discovery - Pip's development from childhood innocence through self-deception, snobbery and various weaknesses to an understanding of genuine virtue, goodness and truth.

Expectations - obviously Pip has 'Great Expectations' but other characters have expectations. Who are they and what are their expectations?

Crime and Punishment - various characters are involved here e.g. Magwitch, Compeyson, Molly, Orlick, Jaggers, Wemmick. What does the novel have to say about crime and punishment do you think?

Love, marriage, friendship and relationships. Think about the different relationships in the novel and compare and contrast the ways in which they are presented.

Patronage. This involves Magwitch, Pip, Miss Havisham, Herbert and Pumblechook. Think about the different ways that patronage is used in the novel and the motivations behind it.

## REVISION QUESTIONS

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1. How appropriate do you find the title Great Expectations to the novel?
2. Write about the ways in which Pip's relationship with Joe changes during the course of the novel.
3. What is your assessment of the character of Jaggers?
4. With reference to TWO episodes from the novel write about the effect that the presence of Orlick has on the novel.
5. Do you think that Miss Havisham develops as a character during the course of the novel?
6. How important is Herbert Pocket's friendship to Pip?
7. Discuss the theme of love and relationships in the novel.
8. Examine the ways in which Dickens creates a sense of setting and atmosphere in THREE different parts of the novel.
9. What is your response to Estella in the novel?
10. Discuss the contribution made to the novel by a) Wemmick; b) Wopsle and c) Startop.