

Great Expectations

Part I

Chapter I

Vocabulary

beacon – a signal or guidance device like a lighthouse
bleak – exposed and barren; desolate; gloomy
derived – taken from, received, or obtained from a source
elude – evade or escape from by cunning or strength
explicit – fully expressed; leaving nothing implied
inscription – wording, dates, etc., carved or engraved on a coin, stone, book, etc.
lair – den of a wild animal
lead – made of lead; gray or heavy like lead
pollards – trees cut back so that the lower branches are removed and the crown or upper branches form a decorative ball
ravenous – extremely hungry
stout – bulky; strong; sturdy
vivid – creating a strong or clear impression on the senses

1. How does Dickens begin his story?

2. What narrative point of view has Dickens chosen for this novel?

3. What can the reader expect in a story told from this point of view?

4. How does the action of the story begin?

5. Briefly, describe the convict. What evidence is there that the convict has human qualities and is not merely a criminal?

6. How does Dickens establish that Pip is a young child in this part of the story?

7. Does Pip know the convict is a convict?

8. How does Dickens establish the social class of the convict?

9. On what note of potential foreshadowing does the first chapter end?

10. How does Dickens create some sympathy for the convict?

Chapter II

Vocabulary

augmented – increased
 connubial – relating to marriage
 consternation – utter amazement or paralyzing dismay
 disconsolately – cheerlessly
 dismal – gloomy; dreary
 elixir – a liquid concoction used as a medicine
 emphatic – with emphasis
 imbue – to make soaking wet
 impart – to pass on; give; grant; bestow
 interlocutor – one who takes part in formal or official dialogue or conversation
 interpose – to put oneself between; to insert an idea into a conversation
 pall – a cloth to cover coffin, usually of a heavy black or purple material; any dreary
 or depressing covering
 prevailing – to triumph through strength or superiority
 remonstrance – a protest or complaint
 reproach – to rebuke or show disapproval; a rebuke or statement of disapproval
 squall – brief or sudden storm with gusty winds
 trenchant – keen, sharp

1. How does the below description of Mrs. Joe Gargery help the reader understand her character?

"My sister, Mrs. Joe, with black hair and eyes, had such a prevailing redness of skin that I sometimes used to wonder whether it was possible she washed herself with a nutmeg-grater instead of soap. She was tall and bony, and almost always wore a coarse apron, fastened over her figure behind with two loops, and having a square impregnable bib in front, that was stuck full of pins and needles."

2. What effect does Dickens achieve by describing Pip as having been "brought up by hand"?

3. Contrast Pips description of Mrs. Joe with his description of Joe.

4. What important exposition is the reader given in this chapter?

5. What is Dickens hoping to achieve in the below passage?

“Since that time, which is far enough away now, I have often thought that few people know what secrecy there is in the young, under terror. No matter how unreasonable the terror, so that it be terror. I was in mortal terror of the young man who wanted my heart and liver; I was in mortal terror of my interlocutor with the leg iron; I was in mortal terror of myself, from whom an awful promise had been extracted; I had no hope of deliverance through my all-powerful sister, who repulsed me at every turn; I am afraid to think of what I might have done on requirement, in the secrecy of my terror.”

6. How does learning about the Hulks and the escaped convicts intensify Pips horror?

Chapter IV

Vocabulary

abhorrence – deep hatred
 aspiration – audible exhaling
 blithe – lighthearted
 Chandler – a merchant, a dealer of a specific good or product
 commiseration – to feel sorrow for; empathize with
 conciliatory – attempting to gain or regain one's good favor or friendship
 contumacious – rebellious
 conventional – ordinary, unoriginal
 countenances – approving expressions
 declamation – a strongly worded speech delivered with emotion
 deduce – to infer from a general idea
 despair – to lose all hope
 dispose – to get rid of; throw out
 divulge – reveal
 ensue – to come after, often to come as a result of
 expectorate – to spit
 goad – to urge to action
 imperious – haughty, marked by proud assurance
 indignation – anger caused by something unfair or mean
 intimate – to announce publicly; or to hint indirectly
 oblige – to perform a favor and thus make another indebted
 omnipotent – having unlimited influence, authority, or power
 presentiment – an inkling that something is about to happen
 prodigal – ridiculously extravagant
 prodigious – enormous, bulky
 regale – to entertain lavishly
 retort – to answer back; reply, especially in an exchange of arguments or opinions
 terse – succinct; brief
 trifle – to treat in an insignificant manner
 vengeance – revenge
 vicariously – experienced through imagined participation in another's experience

1. How does Chapter IV begin and end?

3. What are the sources of humor in this chapter?

2. What observation does Pip make about Joe's dress and appearance?

Chapter V

Vocabulary

apparition – ghost
 arid – excessively dry
 asunder – into parts
 dispel – scatter
 disperse – to cause to break up and scatter in different directions
 dissociate – to separate from association with another
 diverge – to move in different directions
 exasperate – to bother; to make extremely angry
 execrate – to declare to be evil
 grovel – crawling and creeping near the ground as a sign of humility; penance
 inference – deduction; guess
 interposition – intervention
 joviality – state of jolly happiness
 liberality – broad-mindedness; generosity
 stifle – to smother or repress growth or creativity
 stipulate – to demand an exact item or condition in an agreement

1. Why does Pip say to Joe that he hopes the soldiers do not catch the escaped convicts?

2. How is the capture of the two convicts ironic?

3. What does Pip's convict mean when he says the following to the soldiers after he is caught?

"Mind!" said my convict, wiping blood from his face with his ragged sleeves, and shaking torn
 hair from his fingers: "I took him! I give him up to you! Mind that!"

4. What facts do we learn about the convicts in this chapter?

5. What does the treatment of the stolen pie suggest about the characters of the convict and Joe?

6. Why does the convict go out of his way to clear Pip of any blame for the missing food?

7. What indications are there that the ploline of the convict is not over?

1. Why does Pip love Joe? What reason does he give for keeping the truth of his crimes from Joe?

drege – the worst part; the residue or sediment that settles to the bottom of a container of liquid
excommunicate – to exclude; officially remove from membership in a group, especially a church
exonerated – cleared from accusation
impel – to push forward; give motion to
pilfer – to steal, especially a small amount at a time
restorative – having the power to restore; something that has the power to restore

Vocabulary

Chapter VI

Chapter VII

Vocabulary

abtution – an act of bathing, especially for religious purposes; a ritual bath; the liquid used in a ritual bath
 alight – to settle as after a flight; to dismount from a horse or vehicle
 callous – emotionally hard; unfeeling
 contrive – to devise or plan cleverly
 couplet – two consecutive rhyming lines of poetry
 drudge – hard, menial work; a person who performs this work
 epistle – a long letter
 erudition – deep and extensive knowledge
 indispensable – absolutely necessary
 infirmity – weakness
 oration – a formal speech
 patronage – encouragement or support, often financial, for the work or cause of another
 penitent – a feeling of sorrow or remorse for wrongdoings
 perspicuity – the quality of being clear and understandable
 rasp – to speak with a grating or irritated voice
 retort – to answer back; reply, especially in an exchange of arguments or opinions
 sagacious – wise; showing keen judgment, insight, and foresight
 truss – to gather into a bundle; secure tightly
 venerate – to regard with deep respect

1. Chapter VII is the end of the third weekly installment of the book. What structural purpose does it serve?

2. How again does Dickens indicate Pip's youth and lack of learning?

3. What do we learn about Mr. Wopsle?

4. How are Biddy and Pip alike?

5. Why did Joe not learn to read as a child? What made him marry Pip's sister?

6. Compare Joe's dialect with the convicts in Chapter I.

7. What might Dickens be suggesting by having Joe and the convict use such similar dialects?

8. What does Dickens accomplish at the end of this chapter?

"... what with my feelings and what with soap-suds, I could at first see no stars from the chaise-cart. But they twinkled out one by one, without throwing any light on the questions why on earth I was going to play at Miss Havisham's and what on earth I was expected to play at."

Chapter VIII

Vocabulary

affinity – an attraction or feeling of belonging to one another
 bedstead – bed frame
 capricious – impulsive
 contemptuous – showing contempt or strong dislike; condescending
 discomfit – to make uneasy; to thwart the plans of another; to defeat in battle
 disdain – an attitude of arrogance or contempt
 disputations – provoking argument
 dogged – stubborn, tenacious
 farinaceous – having a mealy or powdery texture
 gilded – covered with a thin layer of gold
 insolent – insultingly arrogant; audaciously rude
 obstinate – stubborn; not easily restrained or moved
 pompous – excessively elevated; proud
 recluse – a person who lives in seclusion
 sullen – gloomy
 transfix – to hold motionless

1. How does Dickens ridicule the city businessmen in this chapter? What does the reader learn about Mr. Pumblechook from a glimpse into his home life?

2. Why is the Manor House also called Satis House?

7. Explain the new ambivalence developing in Pip's character.

6. Why does Miss Havisham make Estella play cards with Pip? Why is she interested in Pip's opinion of Estella?

5. What sympathetic connection does Pip begin to forge with Miss Havisham?

4. What can the reader infer about Miss Havisham from this first introduction?

3. How is the name of the house ironic?

Chapter X

Vocabulary

ascertain – to make certain; to discover by experimentation or examination
 cogitate – to think deeply and carefully about something
 derision – the use of ridicule to show scorn
 felicitous – appropriate
 fortuitous – happening by chance; lucky
 indiscriminate – random; not carefully selective or exclusive
 ophthalmic – relating to the eye
 refractory – resisting control
 reverence – a feeling of profound respect

1. What steps does Pip take to improve himself?

2. How does Dickens suggest the character of the stranger in the pub?

3. What two things does the stranger do to suggest a connection with the convict from the beginning of the book?

6. What two major plotlines begin to converge at the end of this chapter?

5. What is the "invisible gun" referred to in Dickens' description of the stranger? Why does Pip have nightmares after meeting the stranger in the pub?

4. What is the most likely reason the stranger is at the pub?

Chapter XI

Vocabulary

condescend – to act in a patronizingly superior manner
 consolatory – comforting
 corrugated – shaped with folds and ridges
 denude – to strip, make bare
 dexterous – skillful use of the hands; or mentally agile
 discernible – perceptible
 divined – to know by intuition or instinct
 inefficacy – powerlessness, ineffectiveness
 obtruded – forced or imposed
 ponderous – massive or heavy; weighty in thought
 sanguinary – bloody; accompanied by or strongly desiring bloodshed
 supercilious – haughty; disdainful
 transpire – to occur; to take place

1. Who are the Pockets and why are they visiting Miss Havisham? What is revealed about Matthew Pocket, a relative who is not present at the gathering?

2. What is the significance of Pip's saying of the man he meets on the stairway, "He was nothing to me, and I could have had no foresight then, that he ever would be anything to me."?

3. Explain what effect Dickens is creating by using the first person protagonist narrator.

“...when I neared home the light on the spit of sand off the point on the marshes was gleaming against a black night-sky, and Joe’s furnace was flinging a path of fire across the road.”

7. In the following passage, what is the significance of the light from Joe’s forge?

6. How does the young man inspire Pip with great respect?

5. What potential role has Estella played in the fight between Pip and the pale young man?

4. What suspicions are confirmed for the reader in this chapter?

Chapter XII

Vocabulary

dejected – being in low spirits
 depreciatory – lowering in estimation or esteem
 traught – supplied or provided with
 homage – special or official expression of high regard
 imbecility – the quality of being a fool
 hitchpin – a locking pin inserted into the end of a shaft
 myrmidon – a loyal follower
 repose – to rest, either physically or mentally
 suborn – to induce to commit an illegal act
 trepidation – fear
 visage – the face or appearance of a person or animal

1. How much time elapses in this chapter?

2. What evidence is there to suggest that Miss Havisham was jilted?

3. What is the adult Pip insinuating when he narrates:

“What could I become with these surroundings? How could my character fail to be influenced by them? Is it to be wondered at if my thoughts were dazed, as my eyes were, when I came out into the natural light from the misty yellow rooms?”

Chapter XIII

Vocabulary

abject – of the most miserable or contemptible kind
 augur – to look for and read signs and omens; one who reads signs and omens
 benevolent – kind, caring, or generous
 diabolical – evil, devilish
 excrescence – a outgrowth like a wart or goiter
 hypocrite – one whose actions and attitudes do not suit his or her professed beliefs
 inscrutable – not easily understood
 malevolent – vicious, mean, or evil
 mollify – soothe or calm one's temper
 ostentatious – pretentious; flagrantly or flamboyantly showy; creating an obvious display of one's wealth
 sovereign – independent; self-governing; a gold coin formerly used in Great Britain
 vagary – an erratic or unpredictable action or idea

1. Why is Pip ashamed of Joe when he goes to meet Miss Havisham?

2. What does Pip mean when he says, "Miss Havisham glanced at him as if she understood what he really was, better than I had thought possible, seeing what he was there"?

3. Define indentures. What restrictions does the law place on a boy who is bound?

4. On what note does the chapter end?

Chapter XV

Vocabulary

accost – confront or detain in an aggressive way
 disconsolate – extremely sad; unable to be consoled
 gravity – seriousness; importance or significance
 hermitage – a retreat; where a person can live in seclusion
 injurious – harmful or damaging; causing injury
 malignant – damaging, destructive, or causing death
 maudlin – excessively sentimental; tearful
 monomania – a condition of obsessive single-mindedness
 morose – gloomy, sullen
 obstinate – stubborn
 plume – to preen or show off, as a peacock opening its tail
 preposterous – ridiculous or outlandish
 unscrupulous – dishonest, devious or without morals
 unwonted – unusual or unexpected

1. What is Dickens suggesting when he has Pip say, "Miss Havisham and Estella and the strange house and the strange life appeared to have something to do with everything that was picturesque"?

2. Under what conditions does Joe agree to let Pip visit Satis House? Why does he think Pip should stay away?

3. What new character and conflict is introduced in this chapter?

4. What is probably the real reason Pip wants to visit Miss Havisham?

5. What possible explanation is given in this chapter concerning the identity of the person who has attacked Mrs. Joe?

Chapter XVI

Vocabulary

aberration – eccentricity or abnormally
 conciliate – to pacify, to smooth over
 mutton – the cooked meat of an adult sheep
 pervade – to saturate or spread throughout
 propitiate – to appease, especially an angry authority or deity
 tremulous – unsteady or trembling
 vagabond – a vagrant wanderer

1. What purpose does Dickens have for reintroducing the convict's leg iron in this chapter?

2. How does Biddy come to live with Pip and Joe?

3. What does the following passage suggest?

“She [Mrs. Joe] watched his [Orlick's] countenance as if she were particularly wishful to be assured that he took kindly to his reception, she showed every possible desire to conciliate him, and there was an air of humble propitiation in all she did, such as I have seen pervade the bearing of a child towards a hard master.”

Chapter XVII

Vocabulary

affront – to insult intentionally and openly
 disconcerted – unsettled, confused
 guinea – an English coin
 imperceptible – gradual or subtle; unable to be perceived
 latent – hidden or suppressed
 manifest – apparent or obvious; to make apparent
 sluice – a passage for water with a gate or valve
 spectre – ghost or spirit
 stile – a set of steps over a fence or wall
 stratagem – a clever trick or scheme
 untoward – improper or indecent
 vexation – trouble or irritation

1. How does Dickens establish the passage of time at the beginning of this chapter?

2. Describe Pip's internal conflict.

3. What does Pip mean when he says he wants to be a "gentleman"?

4. Explain Pip and Biddy's relationship.

Chapter XVIII

Vocabulary

abhorrent – repugnant or disgusting
 allusion – suggestion or hint; an indirect reference to another topic
 barbarous – coarse, crude, lacking refinement; harsh or cruel
 confirmatory – to establish as true or valid
 disengage – to detach or release
 disparagement – ridicule or scorn
 evince – to show or demonstrate clearly; reveal
 pious – devout, reverent
 placable – easily calmed; tolerant
 pugilistic – having to do with the sport of boxing
 subterfuge – a deceptive maneuver

1. Why do you think Dickens includes the scene where the stranger grills Mr. Wopsle? Where has Pip seen this man before?

2. This chapter includes the first mention of the novel's title. To what expectations is Jaggers referring?

3. List the conditions imposed on Pip if he accepts the promised inheritance.

4. What is Joe's reaction to Pip's impending "great expectations"?

5. What is Pip asking Mr. Jaggers in the following passage?

"I wish to be quite right, Mr. Jaggers, and to keep to your directions; so I thought I had better ask, "Would there be any objection to my taking leave of anyone I know, about here, before I go away?"

6. How old is Pip in this chapter?

7. How is Pip feeling in the last paragraph of this chapter?

"I put my light out, and crept into bed, and it was an uneasy bed now, and I never slept the old sound sleep in it any more."

Chapter XIX

Vocabulary

abreast – alongside
 affability – friendliness, pleasantness or graciousness
 amalgamation – consolidation or merger
 astir – active, especially being out of bed
 audacious – daring or bold, often in a reckless way
 clemency – mercy or leniency
 collation – a light meal
 constrain – to be forced or inhibited
 deferential – respectful, especially to a superior or an elder
 flaccid – soft, limp or lacking vigor
 lauded – praised
 sublime – supreme, magnificent; of high spiritual, moral, or intellectual value
 virtuous – honorable, moral or righteous

1. What is significant about Biddy's response to Pip's request for her to prepare Joe to be elevated to a "higher sphere"?

2. Compare Mr. Pumblechook with the Pockets.

3. How does Miss Havisham contribute to his suspicions that she is his benefactor?

4. Many critics have seen what they consider fairy-tale elements in *Great Expectations*. From this viewpoint, identify who in the novel fills the following roles:

- the beggar revealed as a prince – _____
- the princess – _____
- the fairy godmother – _____
- the ogre – _____
- the wicked stepmother – _____

5. Structurally, Dickens ends the first and second parts of Pips expectations with *peripeteia*. What *peripeteia* occurs at the end of the first stage?

6. This first stage of Pips expectations ends, "And the mists had all solemnly risen now, and the world lay spread before me." Many critics see this as an allusion to the end of John Milton's famous epic, *Paradise Lost*. The poem deals essentially with Adam and Eve, their first sin, and their consequent expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The closing lines of the poem are:

Some natural tears they dropped, but wiped them soon;
 The world was all before them, where to choose
 Their place of rest, and Providence their guide;
 They hand in hand with wandering steps and slow,
 Through Eden took their solitary way.

How is this ending optimistic? How might it be pessimistic?

Part II

Chapter XX

Vocabulary

confectioner – a person who makes or deals in candy
 equipage – a horse-drawn carriage with its servants
 guileless – candid, innocent, naive
 infernal – relating to the world of the dead; fiendish; diabolical
 oppressed – burdened or demoralized
 perusal – careful examination
 relinquish – to let go
 scabbard – a sheath for a sword or dagger
 supplicant – a person who pleads or prays

1. What does the following description of Mr. Jaggers' office tell the reader about its occupant?

"Mr. Jaggers's own high-backed chair was of deadly black horse hair, with rows of brass nails round it, like a coffin; ... The room was but small, and the clients seemed to have had a habit of backing up against the wall; the wall, especially opposite to Mr. Jaggers's chair, being greasy with shoulders."

2. What is the primary purpose of this chapter?

3. Briefly describe Mr. Jaggers.

Chapter XXII

Vocabulary

acquiesce – to comply passively with another's will
 asseverate – to declare or affirm positively
 avaricious – greedy, especially for money or other material possessions
 broach – to mention or bring up
 circumjacent – in the surrounding area
 conglutination – the process of making solid; coagulation
 degradation – a decline to a lower quality or station; extreme humiliation
 haughty – arrogant or proud
 imbue – to influence fully, pervade; to saturate or stain
 incipient – just beginning or becoming apparent
 inveterate – deep-rooted; habitual; persistent
 lamentation – an expression of grief
 languor – laziness or weariness
 magnanimous – noble or generous
 mortification – embarrassment or shame
 perplexity – utter bewilderment or confusion
 prepossessions – attitudes or impressions formed ahead of time
 prophesy – to predict or see the future
 propitiate – to attempt to pacify or regain the favor of another, especially one with power or authority
 requisite – essential, necessary
 shod – wearing a shoe

1. What might be inferred from the information that the day Pip and Herbert had their fight at Miss Havisham's, Herbert was there to see whether Miss Havisham could take a fancy to him?

2. How does Herbert feel about Pip's great expectations?

3. What is ironic about Herbert's decision to change Pip's name to Handel?

4. What important exposition is the reader given in this chapter?

5. Briefly describe the Pocket household.

Chapter XXIII

Vocabulary

abashed – ashamed or embarrassed
 adepts – highly skilled people
 affliction – suffering or hardship
 artifices – clever or artful skills; deceptions
 baronetcy – a rank of honor below a baron and above a knight
 forelock – a lock of hair that grows from the front of the head
 imperiled – endangered
 mitre – a tall, pointed hat with peaks in front and back, worn by church officials at all solemn functions
 odious – horrible or repulsive; dreaded
 plebeian – a working-class person
 preferment – advancement or promotion
 vellum – a fine parchment made from the skin of a lamb or calf; an expensive paper resembling this parchment
 Woolsack – the official seat of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords

1. What purposes are fulfilled by this chapter?

2. What two careers did Mr. Pocket supposedly consider when he was a younger man?

3. What is the source of satire in Mrs. Pocket's pretentious nature?

7. What is the satire in this chapter?

6. What do the people and events of this chapter contribute to Pip's endeavor to become a gentleman?

5. How did Mr. Pocket begin his career as a tutor?

4. What might Dickens be implying about early marriage?

Chapter XXIV

Vocabulary

denuciation – criticism or condemnation
 diffidence – timidity or shyness
 homage – special or official expression of high regard
 publican – the keeper of a public house or tavern
 render – to make; to cause to become
 rudiments – basics, essentials
 smelter – a person who melts or fuses metal
 testator – one who has made his or her will prior to death
 zealous – fervent, enthusiastic, eager

1. What is significant about the fact that Pip is "not designed for any profession"?

2. Contrast Mr. Pocket with Mr. Pumblechook.

3. Compare Wemmick's observation that Jaggers always seems as though he has set a trap and "Suddenly—click—you're caught!" with the exchange between Jaggers and Pip regarding money for furniture.

4. Define "portable property."

5. Why does Wemmick want Pip to pay attention to Mr. Jaggers' housekeeper when he is asked to dine at Mr. Jaggers' home?

6. Why does Dickens have Wemmick bring up the topic of Jaggers' housekeeper?

Chapter XXV

Vocabulary

beguile – entice or lead, usually by deception; cheat
 besiege – harass, overwhelm or surround
 bijou – a delicate, intricately wrought trinket
 complacent – self-satisfied or unconcerned
 contrivance – a clever plot or artificial arrangement
 egress – exit
 forbearance – patience or restraint
 inveigle – to convince by flattery or deceit
 loll – to sprawl, slouch or flop
 ordnance – military equipment such as weapons or bombs
 tarpaulin – a sheet of waterproof material; a tarp

1. Pip's describing Georgiana Pocket as "an indigestive single woman" is an example of what rhetorical device?

2. What does Pip mean when he says that Matthew Pocket's relatives "hated [him] with the hatred of cupidity and disappointment"?

3. Briefly describe Wemmick's home. How does Wemmick feel about his home?

4. What thematic or structural purpose does Wemmick's dual life serve?

Chapter XXVI

Vocabulary

capacious – huge or roomy
 entreat – plead; pray or urge
 exhort – urge or insist
 lithe – flexible, agile
 nigh – near
 obtuse – stupid or dull
 surly – gruff, rude, irritable
 trifle – usually of little value, substance, or importance; to treat someone or some-
 thing as unimportant, of little value

1. Explain the metaphor of Mr. Jaggers' scented soap.

2. Compare Jaggers' home with his office. In what ways are they similar?

3. Explain Jaggers' immediate and almost exclusive interest in Drummle.

4. What does Dickens accomplish by having Jaggers point out Molly's warts to his guests?

Chapter XXVIII

Vocabulary

blustering – like a loud violent wind; boastful or threatening
 denote – indicate, signify
 exposition – description or explanation
 incongruity – inconsistency; inappropriateness
 insoluble – difficult or impossible to solve; cannot be dissolved
 lucid – logical and clear
 pettish – ill-tempered, fretful

1. What significant insight does Pip share in the following passage?
 “So, throughout life, our worst weaknesses and meannesses are usually committed for the sake of the people who we most despise.”

2. How had Dickens foreshadowed Mr. Wopsles entering the theater?

3. What does Pip mean when he twice says he recognizes a type of dignity in Joe's behavior?

Chapter XXVIII

Vocabulary

artificer – skilled craftsman
 choleric – hot-tempered
 commodious – roomy or vast
 execrate – to declare to be evil
 gaoler – British variant of jailer
 incommoded – bothered or disturbed
 pernicious – destructive
 remiss – careless or negligent
 spurious – not genuine; false
 ungainly – clumsy, awkward

1. Why is Pip still terrified of the convicts on the coach?

2. What important exposition is revealed in this chapter?

3. What effect is Dickens creating by emphasizing the extreme undefinable fear Pip feels after the coach journey with the convicts?

4. What is significant about the fact the Pumblechook publicly takes credit for being Pips' earliest patron and the founder of [his] fortune?

3. Describe Pip's ambivalence in Estella's presence.

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4. How is Miss Havisham's command for Pip to love Estella ambiguous? How does Pip interpret it?

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5. What is troubling Pip in the following passage from the chapter?

"What was it that was borne in upon my mind when she stood still and looked attentively at me? Anything that I had seen in Miss Havisham? No. In some of her looks and gestures there was that tinge of resemblance to Miss Havisham... And yet I could not trace this to Miss Havisham. I looked again, and though she was still looking at me, the suggestion was gone."

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1. How is Pip's character advanced during this chapter?

abominate – hate; loathe
 akimbo – in a position such that the hands are on the hips with the elbows bowed outward
 allot – to assign a portion; allocate
 contrition – repentance or remorse for a wrongdoing
 despondency – hopelessness; gloom
 endow – to provide with property or income; to equip with a talent or quality
 engender – to produce or cause
 feign – to act falsely; pretend with the intent to deceive
 paroxysm – a sudden outburst of emotion or action; a convulsion or spasm
 pretence – a false appearance or action with intent to deceive
 quell – to subdue or control
 victualling – gathering food and other provisions

Vocabulary

Chapter XXX

Chapter XXXI

Vocabulary

approbation – official approval
 bereft – deprived of; to be left alone, especially by death
 derision – the use of ridicule to show scorn
 derisive – mocking; ridiculing
 diadem – crown
 elocution – a very formal style of public speaking, emphasizing delivery, facial expression, and bodily gesture
 flay – to whip; to skin alive; to assail with criticism
 jostle – push, shove; to come into rough contact while moving
 primeval – relating to earliest ages; original; ancient

1. Compare the way the audience heckles Wopsle with the way the Trabb boy mimics Pip. In what ways are the two incidents similar?

Chapter XXXII

Vocabulary

elongate – to make or grow longer
 portly – stout
 quantum – a specific quantity
 wicket – small gate, especially one built near or in a larger one

1. Most of this chapter centers on Pip's anxious wait for Estella's coach. How does Dickens use foreshadowing in this chapter to maintain the reader's interest?

Chapter XXXIII

Vocabulary

adjunct – something or someone attached to another in a subordinate position
 averse – strongly disinclined; having an aversion to
 conflagration – a large fire
 languid – weak; lacking energy or vigor
 staid – exhibiting a sense of propriety or sedate dignity
 treatise – a formal, organized, written discussion of a topic

1. What does Pip hope Estella means when she tells him, "We are not free to follow our own devices, you and I"?

2. Why would Miss Havisham's relatives write to Miss Havisham with unflattering reports of Pip?

3. What evidence is there to suggest that Estella realizes that Miss Havisham's plan to avenge herself against the entire male gender is ill advised.

1. How does Dickens maintain reader sympathy for Pip while also showing his moral descent?

consort – to keep company
 descry – to catch a glimpse of something difficult to discern; to discover by observation
 despond – to become discouraged
 disquiet – to make uneasy; a state of unease
 edify – to instruct and improve
 insensible – incapable of sensation; unemotional, unfeeling; unconscious
 meritorious – deserving of honor
 rueful – inspiring pity; causing or expressing remorse
 solvent – the condition of being able to pay all debts

Vocabulary

Chapter XXXIV

Chapter XXXV

Vocabulary

cogent – reasonable; convincing
 mummery – pretentious and hypocritical show and ceremony
 obsequious – fawning; exhibiting a servile manner or attitude
 servile – submissive; suitable for a servant
 vainglorious – excessively boastful

“It was fine summer weather again, and as I walked along, the time when I was a little helpless creature, and my sister did not spare me, vividly returned. But they returned with a gentle tone on them, that softened even the edge of the Tickler. For now, the very breath of the beans and clover whispered to my heart that the day must come when it would be well for my memory that others walking in the sunshine should be softened as they thought of me.”

1. Explain what Pip is slowly beginning to realize here.

2. How is Pip ambivalent about his sister's death?

3. Explain the satire in the scene of Mrs. Joe's funeral.

4. What does Pip mean when he says that the mists were “quite right too”?

“Once more, the mists were rising as I walked away. If they disclosed to me, as I suspect they did, that I should not come back, and that Biddy was quite right, all I can say is—they were quite right too.”

Chapter XXXVI

Vocabulary

aback – unexpectedly
auspicious – fortunate; propitious
per annum – by the year; annually

1. Why is Pip looking forward to his twenty-first birthday?

2. Why does Dickens have Pip recall, on his coming of age, the day he met the convict in the churchyard?

3. What is established as Pip's income until his benefactor chooses to make himself/herself known to Pip?

4. Why do you suppose Mr. Jaggers is determined to stay out of Pip's business once his benefactor makes himself or herself known?

"When that person discloses," said Mr. Jaggers, straightening himself, "you and that person will settle your own affairs. When that person discloses, my part in this business will cease and determine. When that person discloses, it will not be necessary for me to know anything about it."

5. What does Pip's desire to assist a friend say about his character?

6. What is Wemmick suggesting when he says to Pip, "Walworth is one place, and this office in another. Much as the Aged is one person, and Mr. Jaggers is another. They must not be confounded together. My Walworth sentiments must be taken at Walworth; none but my official sentiments can be taken in this office"?

Chapter XXXVIII

Vocabulary

delegate – to give a responsibility to another
 ensue – to follow as a result
 enthral – to spellbind; fascinate
 ingenuity – resourcefulness; cleverness
 forum – a large drinking bowl
 retain – to keep under one's employ by the payment of a fee
 rubicund – having a healthy, ruddy appearance
 sundry – miscellaneous
 utmost – of the greatest degree

1. What reasons does Pip give for wanting to help Herbert?

2. What is Dickens's purpose in having Wemmick's character divided into two personae: the Walworth Wemmick and the Little Britain Wemmick?

3. On what note does this chapter end?

Chapter XXXVIII

Vocabulary

awoal – an open and grand admission
 blight – to cause to deteriorate; wither
 entrap – to trap
 leer – to stare lewdly or maliciously
 reputed – have the reputation of
 retort – to answer back; reply, especially in an exchange of arguments or opinions
 revival – rebirth; reawakening
 ungainly – clumsy, awkward
 untenable – in such a condition that it cannot be supported, defended, or maintained;
 unworkable

1. What is ironic about Pip's relationship with Estella as described in this chapter?

2. What is ironic about the scene between Miss Havisham and Estella?

3. Why does Estella permit Drummle's attentions?

4. What does the allusion to the "Eastern story" at the end of the chapter signify?

Chapter XXXIX

Vocabulary

assail – to attack violently; to attack verbally, ridicule
 dilate – to enlarge, expand
 recoil – to fall or draw back as in fear, disgust, or from an attack
 recompense – to give compensation to, pay back; to pay back for a wrong done
 repugnance – strong dislike

1. What peripeteia occurs at the end of the second stage of Pip's expectations?

2. How does Dickens establish from the very beginning of the chapter that something unexpected is about to happen?

3. How does Pip try to get the convict to leave? What evidence is there that Pip might suspect the truth about the reasons for the convict's visit?

4. In the quotation below, what realization—beyond the fact that the convict is the benefactor—is dawning on Pip?

“All the truth of my position came flashing on me; and its disappointments, dangers, disgraces, consequences of all kinds, rushed in such a multitude that I was borne down by them and had to struggle for every breath I drew.”

5. How does the convict respond to Pip's reaction and initial treatment of him?

6. Why do you think the convict wants to “make a gentleman”? In what ways are the convict and Miss Havisham alike?

7. What is Pip's “sharpest and deepest pain of all” after he realizes his good fortune has not been the result of Miss Havisham's money?

Part III

Chapter XI

Vocabulary

concourse – a large space for the gathering of crowds; a large gathering of people
 dandle – to bounce a young child playfully on one's knees; to pamper
 downcast – depressed
 dubious – doubtful
 elicit – to cause to come forth
 flourish – a grand or bold gesture; an ornate embellishment
 fretful – irritable; bothersome
 impious – irreverent; disrespectful
 incoherent – unclear; unable to express one's thoughts in a clear fashion
 lurk – to sneak; to move about stealthily and unnoticed
 mire – deep, slimy mud; a difficult situation
 physiognomy – the "science" of determining a person's character from the appearance
 of his/her face; the appearance of the face
 proficiency – competence; ability; skill
 prolix – excessively long, wordy, tedious
 rouse – to excite, arouse, awaken; to stir to action
 subsequent – following, coming after
 uncouth – ill-mannered; crude; awkward

1. How does the tone of the story change in this chapter?

Chapter XLIII

Vocabulary

abhorrent – disgusting; repugnant
drivel – to have saliva running from the mouth, to drool; to utter incomprehensible nonsense

1. How does Dickens begin the chapter on a note of humor?

2. Why does Dickens choose to begin this chapter with a note of humor?

3. What important exposition is revealed in this chapter?

4. Given the revelation about Miss Havisham, what is the significance of Arthur's hallucination?

Chapter XLIII

Vocabulary

abys - an immeasurably vast and deep chasm
 blundering - clumsy
 exasperate - to bother; to make extremely angry
 expedition - a journey undertaken with a specific purpose or goal in mind
 extenuate - to lessen the severity of; to offer excuses for
 incursion - an invasion; entering into another's territory
 loiter - to linger purposelessly

1. How does Dickens continue to connect Magwitch and Estella in the reader's mind?

2. In terms of plot structure, what is significant about the fact that Estella has gone to Satis House without asking Pip to accompany her?

3. Describe the humor in the scene with Pip and Drummle by the fireplace.

4. What is Drummle implying when he says to Pip, "But don't lose your temper. Haven't you lost enough without that?"

Chapter XLV

Vocabulary

conjecture – a guess based on incomplete or inconclusive evidence
 conjugate – to join together; couple
 divert – change from one course to another
 irrespective – regardless of
 prudent – wise
 purser – the officer of a ship in charge of provisions and money
 rakish – dashing, sporting, stylish; lacking restraint, self-indulgent
 tacit – implied or inferred; not spoken

1. What key plot exposition does the reader receive in this chapter?

2. What future plot events are suggested?

Chapter XLVI

Vocabulary

commune – to be in intimate communication with
 consign – to entrust to the care of another
 consolation – the act of comforting one in grief; something that brings about comfort
 redeem – to recover by paying a specified sum; to fulfill a pledge or pay a debt
 superannuate – to retire as old or obsolete
 undesigning – straightforward; sincere

1. How does Dickens establish the character of Clara's father without the reader ever meeting him?

Chapter XLVIII

Vocabulary

hypothesis – a tentative assumption for the purpose of argument or further observation
or experimentation
scoundrel – a villain

1. What loose ends begin to come together in this chapter?

2. What is foreshadowed about Estella's future with her husband?

2. What is the significance of the fire that destroys Miss Havisham's wedding dress?

1. How does Dickens create reader sympathy for Miss Havisham?

bemoan – to express grief over; lament
 collected – calm
 compassionate – having and showing compassion for
 credentials – documents verifying one's identity or qualifications
 discursive – rambling
 grievous – seriously wrong; causing pain or harm
 refectory – the dining hall of an institution like a school or a prison
 spurn – to reject
 supplementary – additional
 vestige – the final trace left behind of something that has all but disappeared
 vivacity – liveliness

Vocabulary

Chapter XLIX

2. What purpose does Dickens achieve in Jaggers's hypothetical description of the children with whom he typically came into contact?

1. What is Dickens's purpose in revealing Estella's parentage?

abeyance – cessation
dictatorial – oppressive toward others
inkling – indication
lapsed – temporarily deviated
magisterially – authoritatively
obdurate – hard-hearted
repressed – restricted
sniveling – whining with snorting
sputtering – speaking fast
wont – habit

Vocabulary

Chapter 11

3. What is significant about the fact that he calls Magwitch "Estella's father"?

2. What is Pip's main concern about what Orlick has threatened?

1. Explain Dickens's use of light and dark in this chapter.

besetting – troubling
 deliberation – consideration
 delirious – demented
 goad – urged to action
 inclination – a tendency
 irresolute – doubtful
 notion – belief
 perpendicular – exactly upright
 taunting – teasing
 tinder – flammable substance
 tumult – commotion

Vocabulary

Chapter LIII

7. How has the imagery toward the end of the chapter established a mood of optimism?

6. What happens to suggest that Pip is not finished with Orlick and Compeyson?

5. What is significant about the fact that Pip resolves to fight Orlick as much as he is able and to ask no mercy?

4. List three mysteries Orlick solves for Pip while he is working up the courage to kill him.

Chapter LIV

Vocabulary

amphibious – adapted for both land and water
 apportioned – divided
 astern – behind a ship
 athwart – across
 capsized – sunk
 capstans – machines for moving heavy weights
 captor – abductor
 colliers – ships for delivering coal
 despondent – depressed
 emigrant – person who leaves home to live elsewhere
 enriching – making richer
 hempen – made of hemp
 keel – the chief structural member of a boat
 leniently – with tolerance
 slacken – decrease
 stagnation – recession
 submissive – agreeable
 trifle – bit
 vacillating – changing
 vex – disturb

1. Briefly describe Pip's plan to get Magwitch out of England.

2. What aspect of Magwitch's character is reinforced by his attitude on the boat?

6. What is ironic about the confiscation of Magwitch's purse?

5. What evidence is there to suggest that Magwitch is telling the truth when he says he did not kill Compeyson?

4. How does Pip's narration of Magwitch's arrest echo his narration of the fire at Miss Havisham's?

3. How does the change in imagery reflect a change in mood?

Chapter LV

Vocabulary

bagatelle – games involving rolling balls into goals
exordium – introduction in composition
legible – readable
querulous – habitually complaining

1. What is ironic about Herbert's offering Pip the position of clerk in his eastern office?

2. Why does Dickens pause in the narrative to tell about Herbert's impending marriage and to show Wemmick's wedding?

3. Why does Pip tell Magwitch about Estella?

2. How does Magwitch's death reinforce this theme?

1. What theme is being emphasized when Pip says, "I sometimes derived an impression, from his manner or from a whispered word or two which escaped him, that he pondered over the question whether he might have been a better man under better circumstances"?

allotted – assigned as a part
 indelible – permanent
 infirmary – small hospital
 nosegays – small bunches of flowers
 pondered – reflected on
 sauntered – walked in relaxed manner
 wholly – entirely

Vocabulary

Chapter LVI

Chapter LVII

Vocabulary

composure – calmness
 cumber – to hinder, especially by imposing too many burdens
 errant – wandering, either in search of adventure or from the proper moral path
 orthographical – relating to spelling and the writing of words
 relish – to enjoy
 teemed – poured
 transformation – a change, usually complete changes from one being or type of being
 into another, usually for the better
 underlet – subtle

1. What purpose does Dickens achieve by having Joe nurse Pip through his illness and convalescence?

2. How does this chapter contribute to the study of what a gentleman is?

3. Why does Joe begin to call Pip "sir" when Pip begins to regain his strength?

3. Explain the ambiguity of the ending of the novel.

2. Compare the ending passage of the book with the ending passage of Chapter XIX.

1. What does Dickens achieve by having Pip take his namesake to the churchyard?

ajar – slightly open
matronly – motherly
renowned – celebrated, famous
tranquil – calm

Vocabulary

Chapter LIX

1. What is the function of this chapter?

baffle – to confuse
compiler – one that gathers materials from other documents
concealment – the condition of being hidden; a secret place
quiver – to tremble
toll – hard, especially hard work
wither – to dry up or to cause to dry up

Vocabulary

Chapter LVIII