

Great Expectations

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–7

- 1 You are Pip. Write five reasons why you hate Mrs Joe.
- 2 The convict whom Pip has helped wrote a thank-you note to him. Complete the words of the note.

Dear young dog,
 I wish to thank you for:
 The tasty b..a.
 The wonderful piece of c.e.s.
 The s.ga.e. f..its
 The bottle of w.i.k.
 The b..e with some .e.t on it
 The beautiful r.un. m..t p.e
 And last but not least: the f..e!
 Yours,
 Your new friend.

Chapters 8–13

- 3 Match A and B. Who says what?

A	B
Joe	'You can't get to be uncommon through lying.'
Pip	'You will please consider me your guardian.'
Mr Jaggers	'And are you adopted by a rich person?'
Estella	'Break their hearts, my pride and hope.'
Miss Havisham	'No favouring in this shop.'
Orlick	'I want to be a gentleman.'
The pale young gentleman	'Come and fight.'
	'Am I insulting?'

- 4 Fill in the chart with the following words.

insulting proud cruel common pleasant
 sweet-tempered rude humble

Estella	Biddy

- 5 You are Joe. Write your thoughts when Pip threw his arms around your neck before leaving for London.

Chapters 14–18

- 6 Answer these questions.
 - a How did Miss Havisham find out that she had a half-brother?
 - b Why was he poor?
 - c Why did Miss Havisham quarrel with Herbert's father?
 - d Why didn't the man she loved marry her?
 - e How was this man connected to her half-brother?
- 7 Dickens's characters can be identified by what they say. Who says this?
 - a 'I am just busy looking about me.'
 - b 'Love her, love her, love her'.
 - c 'I'm wrong out of the forge, the kitchen, or off the marshes.'
 - d 'You must know that I have no heart, no sympathy, no feelings.'
 - e 'I love her, I love her, I love her.'
 - f 'I am to have a carriage and you are to take me.'

Chapters 19–22

- 8 What's the right answer: 1, 2 or 3?

- a If Pip had never met Miss Havisham
 - 1) he would have been happy at the forge with Joe.
 - 2) he would have left his village.
 - 3) he would have fallen in love with Estella all the same.
- b Biddy's letter informed Pip of
 - 1) his sister's death.
 - 2) his benefactor's name.
 - 3) Joe's illness.
- c Pip was to receive five hundred pounds
 - 1) monthly.
 - 2) annually.
 - 3) weekly.
- d tells Estella that instead of a heart she has a stone.
 - 1) Pip
 - 2) Miss Havisham
 - 3) Bentley Drummle

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e The convict called Pip

- 1) his property.
- 2) his tool.
- 3) his son.

9 You are Herbert. What thoughts crossed your mind when you came across the young merchant who wanted to do business with you? Write them down.

Chapters 23–27

10 You are Pip and a classmate of yours is Herbert. Write down the scene in which you tell Herbert 'the whole of the secret' regarding Magwitch.

11 There are very few characters in the novel who are completely bad. In most cases the reader can find explanations for a character's behaviour which make him / her not that bad. Match the names on the left with the words on the right.

Provis	1 was abandoned by her future husband.
Miss Havisham	2 never met his parents.
	3 was cheated by her half brother.
	4 was taught to hate.
	5 didn't know who her parents were.
Estella's mother	6 was tried for murder.
	7 was often put in prison.
	8 lived on the streets.
Estella	9 was a very jealous person.

12 Readers aren't told about Compeyson's childhood. Imagine some sad events in his life to explain the reasons why he hates so many people.

Chapters 28–32

13 Answer these questions.

- a Why does Orlick want to kill Pip?
- b Why does he say that Pip was to blame for what happened to his sister?
- c How were Herbert and Startop able to rescue Pip?
- d Who told the police where to find Magwitch?
- e In what way were Magwitch's actions the same as they had been many years earlier?

- f Why is Pip poor again after Magwitch is arrested?
- g What job does Herbert offer him, and where will he go to take it up?
- h What does Pip tell Magwitch before he dies?

After reading

14 Are the connections between the characters in *Great Expectations* believable? Are any of the connections less believable than the rest?

15 The whole story is told by Pip the adult. Choose three moments in the story in which you didn't like Pip.

16 True or false? Why do you think so?

If Pip had never met the convict ...

- a he would have been happy working with Joe at the forge. ☐
- b he wouldn't have fallen in love with Estella. ☐
- c he wouldn't have had great expectations. ☐
- d he would have married Biddy. ☐
- e he would have stayed in his village. ☐
- f his life would have been easier. ☐
- g he would have made friends with Herbert Pocket. ☐
- h he wouldn't have lived in Cairo for eleven years. ☐
- i he would have become a gentleman all the same. ☐
- j Miss Havisham would have paid for his education. ☐

17 What does this story teach us? Choose the two lessons which according to you are the most important ones. What in the story makes you think so?

- a that love and friendship are more important than money and one's position in society.
- b that human beings can change for the better.
- c that adults sometimes use their children to help them get what they want.
- d that unhappy children often become unhappy grown-ups.
- e that a good social position and money not always bring happiness.
- f that human beings are mostly born good.
- g that those who seem to be bad may not have been taught how to love.
- h that money has a very bad effect on people.

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Chapters 1–7

1 Who said this? To Whom?

- a 'Another convict has escaped.'
- b 'You are not a deceiving little devil?'
- c 'I have brought you, madam, a bottle of white wine.'
- d 'Here you are, come on.'
- e 'Single handed I got clear of the prison ship.'
- f 'I wish there were no Tickler for you, old chap; I wish I could take it all on myself.'
- g 'You are afraid of a woman who has never seen the sun since you were born?'
- h 'What rough hands he has, this boy! And what thick boots.'
- i 'She says many hard things of you, but you say nothing of her.'
- j 'You have been crying till you are half blind and you are near crying again now.'

Chapters 8–13

2 Answer these questions.

- a What sort of work does Pip do for Miss Havisham?
- b Why is the cake on the table covered with dust and cobwebs?
- c Why is Pip surprised when he fights the pale young gentleman?
- d Why do you think Estella allows Pip to kiss her?
- e What does Miss Havisham hope that Estella will do?
- f What makes Pip ashamed of being trained to work as a blacksmith?

Chapters 14–18

3 Who is being described in questions a and b and who is speaking to whom in questions c–g?

- a 'There was something wonderfully hopeful about him that at the same time whispered to me that he would never be successful or rich.'
- b 'If I could have kept him away by paying money I certainly would have done so.'
- c 'You won't find half so much fault in me if you think of me in my forge dress.'
- d 'I'm not here for harm, young master, I suppose.'
- e 'You must know that I have no heart, no sympathy, no feeling.'
- f 'You brought your love for her and your suitcase here, together.'
- g 'You are to take care that I have some tea, and you are to take me to Richmond.'

Chapters 19–22

4 True or false?

- a Pip gets into debt because Herbert's lifestyle makes him spend more. ☐
- b Bidly can no longer live with Joe now that his wife is dead, but plans to look after him. ☐
- c Pip asks Mr Jaggers to express his thanks to his benefactor, believing that it's Miss Havisham. ☐
- d Mr Jaggers arranges to provide an opening for Herbert. ☐
- e Miss Havisham is pleased that Estella has grown up to be proud and hard to everyone. ☐
- f Bentley Drummle proposes that they should drink to Estella's health although he doesn't know her. ☐

Chapters 23–27

5 Put these pieces of information in the order in which Pip discovers them.

- a Compeyson was the man who was going to marry Miss Havisham. ☐
- b Estella is going to marry Bentley Drummle. ☐
- c Jaggers brought Estella to Miss Havisham when she was a little girl. ☐
- d Magwitch became Compeyson's partner in crime. ☐
- e Estella's mother is Mr Jaggers's housekeeper. ☐
- f Magwitch is Estella's father. ☐
- g The police are looking for Magwitch. ☐
- h Jaggers defended Estella's mother when she was accused of murder. ☐
- i The convict's name is Abel Magwitch. ☐

Chapters 28–32

6 Complete these sentences.

- a The officer shouted that they had a convict with them.
- b Everyone knew that had got drowned.
- c Provis's hopes of making Pip had come to nothing.
- d Pip had a, and suffered greatly.
- e Orlick had been caught and put in
- f Pip arrived on Joe and Bidly's day.
- g Pip was abroad for years.
- h Estella had been from her husband.