

CONTENTS

About the Author	6
About the Book	7
FACT FILE What expectations?	8
Characters	12
Before Reading	14
1 A meeting in the churchyard	19
2 An arrest	25
3 A visit to Satis House	28
4 A fight	32
5 Great expectations	36
6 Life in London	43
7 Changes	49
8 A secret plan	58
9 An unwelcome visitor	64
10 Danger!	73
11 A journey down the river	79
12 A new start	86
After Reading	91
LIFE SKILLS The pros and cons of benefactors	102



WHAT EXPECTATIONS?

Children – especially orphaned, abandoned and neglected children – have a key role in Dickens's novels. Thanks to Dickens's portrayal of young characters such as Pip, Oliver Twist and Little Nell, he helped change British attitudes toward children. His caring portraits of the poor, particularly poor children, moved the upper classes to start correcting some of the social problems responsible for the suffering of both children and the lower classes. The writer was very critical of the British government, which offered no kind of help for abandoned children, leaving them in the hands of church parishes and charitable organizations. He is considered to be one of history's greatest reformers, having done a lot more for children than any king, queen or politician of the time. He questioned and criticized the basic conditions of Victorian life, such as **class privilege** and the effects of capitalism.



- **attitudes:** opinions
- **charitable:** (here) that do good acts to poor people
- **key:** very important
- **neglected:** not cared for
- **parishes:** areas with a church
- **portrayal:** (here) descriptions
- **reformers:** people who improve the law by changing it
- **robbery:** crime of taking things that are not one's own

Class privilege

is how certain social classes can access important resources while others can't. The privilege, or opportunity, is related to our social class. Think of examples of how this may happen in the real world?

Can you think of other types of privilege?

Dickens most likely took the figure of the neglected child from Romantic poetry (from William Blake and William Wordsworth in particular). A growing interest in children was one of the features of the evolving spirit of the middle class in nineteenth-century England. Before that, children were thought of as uninteresting, undeveloped, or incomplete adults. During this century, children began to be recognized as needing special care. However, they were also thought to be disobedient and open to temptation, and they often turned to crime, especially robbery and murder.

HARD TIMES

Dickens's moving portrayal of poor children is influenced by the fact that he had almost become one of them. Although his family was middle class, he soon discovered what it was like to be poor when his father was imprisoned for debt, and the family was thrown into poverty. Twelve-year-old Charles had to leave school and start working at a shoe polish factory in very difficult conditions. Dickens wrote in detail about this experience, saying that it was a key event in his future life as a writer and reformer.



When Dickens started writing *Great Expectations*, the world around him was marked by a series of striking contrasts. Britain was by now an empire and ruled half of the world. It was a centre of business and industry and was wealthy in many ways. Yet much of London was filthy, overcrowded, and at times very violent. An army of poor people lived in the city, crowded into dirty tenements and sleeping in doorways, on park benches or under bridges, trying to survive. Although living conditions in the city were terrible, the poor kept arriving, looking for work. Wages for workers were very low and not enough to allow them to lead a normal life. Poor children spent their days walking the streets, asking for money or trying to sell whatever they had found in the slums, or they lived in workhouses, in terrible conditions. Only wealthy children went to school, while poor children had to earn their living.

Thanks to Dickens's novels, all this started to change, and the young were finally able to have 'great expectations' for their lives in the centuries that followed.

OVER TO YOU!

Underline all the words in the text that describe poverty.

- **an army:** (here) very many
- **filthy:** very dirty
- **imprisoned:** put into prison
- **moving:** (here) that causes strong emotions
- **overcrowded:** with too many people in too small an area
- **slums:** poor areas with bad housing
- **striking:** that can be easily seen
- **tenements:** large buildings divided into many apartments, usually in poor areas
- **thrown into poverty:** suddenly became poor
- **wages:** money one gets (earns) for work



▲ The young Dickens in the shoe polish factory by Fred Barnard.



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

ESTELLA



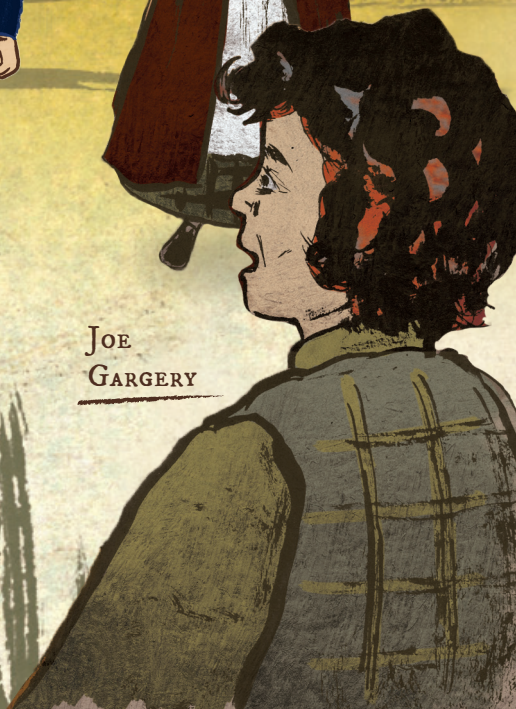
PIP



MRS JOE



JOE
GARGERY



MR JAGGERS

MISS HAVISHAM

WEMMICK



HERBERT
POCKET

ABEL MAGWITCH



BEFORE READING


- 1 Read Pip's description of where he lived as a child. Tick (✓) the photo that best matches the description.



We lived in a village on the edge of the marshes. The land there was flat and without much vegetation because it was near the sea. It was a grey, windy, wild place.

-  2 Listen to Pip's description of his first impression of the city of London. Answer the questions.

- a What was his general impression of the city?
- b What were the streets like?
- c What was the air like?
- d What covered everything?

- 3  Pip grew up in the country and moved to London when he was a teenager. How do you think his life changed? Is it more fun to grow up in the country or in a big city? Discuss your ideas with a partner.



- 4  Read a modern definition of the word ‘expectations’. Discuss the questions that follow it with a partner.

expectations [countable] [usually plural]: a belief that something should happen in a particular way, or that someone or something should have particular qualities or behaviour

- a What expectations do you have of your friends?
Example:

I expect my friends to help me when I have a problem.

- b Think of an important person (or people) in your life who has (have) expectations for you – parents, teachers, friends, football coach, boyfriend or girlfriend, etc. What are their expectations of you?
Example:


My parents expect me to work hard at school.

- 5  Discuss the following questions with a partner.

- a What do you think are the ‘expectations’ in the title of the book?
b Why do you think they are ‘great’?
c Which character do you think has ‘great expectations’?



I A MEETING IN THE CHURCHYARD

 My father's family name was Pirrip, and my name is Philip. Because these names were difficult for me to say when I was a child, I called myself Pip. From then on, I was known as Pip.

My parents were both dead and I lived with my sister. She was twenty years older than me and married to Joe Gargery, the local blacksmith. He was a sweet-tempered•, easy-going man with brown hair and blue eyes. My sister, Mrs Joe Gargery, was the opposite. She had black hair and eyes and was very bad-tempered. She almost always wore an apron• over her dress because she was always busy. I often felt the power of her strong hands on the side of my head. Joe did too, but he never said anything to her. I couldn't understand why he married my sister – I suppose she made him.

We lived in a village on the edge• of the marshes. The land there was flat and without much vegetation because it was near the sea. It was a grey, windy, wild place.

I found the grave• of my parents one foggy evening. It was half-hidden in the long grass of the old churchyard about a mile from the village. I read the names on the tombstone• – Philip Pirrip and his wife Georgiana. Seeing them made me sad, and I started to cry.

Suddenly a terrible voice shouted, 'Be quiet! Or I'll cut your throat•!'

I looked up and saw a man coming towards me out of the fog. He had no hat and old, broken shoes. His clothes were old and covered in mud•, and there was a big iron ring on his leg.

- **apron:** something to wear to protect clothes (usually when cooking)
- **edge:** end; border
- **grave:** place where a dead body is buried in the ground

- **mud:** very soft, wet dirt
- **sweet-tempered:** pleasant, kind and gentle
- **throat:** front part of the neck
- **tombstone:** large stone put over the place where a person is buried

He took hold of my chin with one of his hands. I was very frightened.

‘Oh! Don’t cut my throat, sir,’ I cried. ‘Please don’t, sir!’

‘What’s your name?’ said the man. ‘Quick!’

‘Pip, sir.’

‘What did you say?’ said the man, putting his face close to mine. ‘Speak up!’

‘Pip, sir.’

‘Where do you live?’ he asked. ‘Show me!’

I pointed to the village in the distance.

The man looked at me for a moment. Then he picked me up, turned me upside down and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them, only a small piece of bread. After putting me on top of a tombstone, he took the bread and ate it hungrily. I was shaking with fear as I watched him. I had to try hard to stop myself from crying.

‘Where’s your mother?’

‘Over there, sir!’

He started running away, but then stopped and looked over his shoulder.

‘There, sir!’ I explained, pointing to her grave. ‘Georgiana. That’s my mother.’

‘Oh!’ he said, coming back. ‘And is your father there, too?’

‘Yes, sir,’ I replied.

‘Who do you live with?’ he asked.

‘My sister, sir. Mrs Joe Gargery, wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith, sir.’

‘Blacksmith, eh?’ he said and he looked down at the ring on his leg.

Then he took hold of my arms and pushed me backwards.

‘Do you know what a file[•] is?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘And do you know what wittles[•] are?’

‘Yes, sir.’

• **file:** metal tool used for making wood or metal smooth

• **wittles:** informal Victorian expression for food

‘Well, get me a file and some wittles,’ he said, holding my arms tighter. ‘And bring them to me tomorrow morning early. And don’t tell anyone that you have seen me. If you don’t do exactly what I’ve told you, I’ll cut out your heart, roast it and eat it! Now, what do you say?’

He was hurting me, so I quickly agreed to do what he asked. Then he let me go. I sat and watched him as he limped• to the low churchyard wall and climbed over it. As soon as he disappeared in the darkness, I jumped off the tombstone and started to run. I didn’t stop until I got home.

THE MAN

Who do you think the man is?

What is he doing in the churchyard?

Why does he want a file?

Is Pip going to tell anyone about him?

Joe’s forge• was closed when I got back from the churchyard. I opened the kitchen door and went in. Joe was sitting there alone.

‘Mrs Joe is looking for you, Pip,’ he said. ‘She’s been out several times.’

‘Has she?’

‘Yes, Pip,’ said Joe. ‘And she’s taken the stick• with her this time!’

- **forge:** place where blacksmith works
- **limped:** walked with difficulty because of an injury

- **stick:** thin piece of wood

Just at that moment, the door opened and Mrs Joe burst in. She looked very angry.

‘Where have you been, you young monkey?’ she shouted.

‘Only to the churchyard,’ I replied.

‘The churchyard!’ she repeated. ‘What were you doing there at this time of night? I’ve spent the last hour looking for you! Worry and work! That’s all I get for looking after you!’

She put the stick back in the corner and started to prepare tea. She cut two slices of bread, put some butter on them and gave one to Joe and the other to me. I remembered the terrible man in the churchyard and I was too afraid to eat mine. I knew that I had to keep it for him. So I quickly put it into the pocket of my trousers while Joe wasn’t looking.



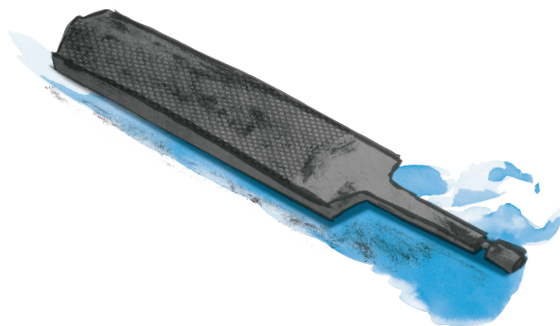
The next day was Christmas Day. I got up before it was light and crept• downstairs. I stole some bread, some cheese and a beautiful pork pie. The pie was a present from Uncle Pumblechook, a rich corn merchant• in the town. Then I went to the forge to get the file.

It was cold that morning and the fog was thicker than usual. When I got to the churchyard, I saw the man sitting on a tombstone in front of me. He seemed to be asleep, so I went up to him quietly and touched him on the shoulder. He jumped up immediately and I saw that it was a different man! He was dressed like the other one and he also had a big iron ring on his leg, but he was younger. When he saw me, he ran away quickly into the fog. I walked a bit further into the churchyard and soon I saw the other one. Without saying anything, I handed him the file and the bag of food. He pushed the bread and the cheese into his mouth together, and then he started on the pie.

‘I’m glad you like it,’ I said.

‘I do, my boy. Thank you,’ he replied, with his mouth full of pie.

‘I have to go now,’ I said, but he wasn’t listening. He was too busy finishing the pie. I started to walk away. When I turned to look at him, he was trying to cut the ring off his leg with the file.



- **burst in:** suddenly came in
- **corn merchant:** person who buys and sells corn

- **crept:** moved very quietly and slowly

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

grave villain ditch smart shabby
file affectionate abroad

- a Pip found his parent's in the old churchyard about a mile from the village.
- b Together with some wittles, the convict asked Pip to bring him a
- c The word is used to describe a criminal or a bad character.
- d Estella went to learn to be a lady.
- e Barnard's Inn was a very building.

2 In pairs, write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Complete the following sentences with the simple past forms of the verbs in the box. There is one additional verb that you don't need to use.

get turn stand look make leave take

- a Joe very out of place in Miss Havisham's room.
- b During the next few days, we to know each other quite well.
- c Nobody any notice of us as we moved down the river.
- d I up my mind to come back one day and see you.
- e He at the top of the stairs and watched us go down.
- f I round and saw Herbert standing at his bedroom door.



P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 6

2 Complete the following text about the book with ONE word for each gap.

At the beginning of the story, the orphan Pip steals food and a file from his home to give them to a convict who (1) escaped from a nearby prison ship. After some time, he receives a strange invitation (2) visit the house of a rich lady, Miss Havisham, who was abandoned on her wedding day many years before, and has since lived separated from the (3) of the world. Pip visits her often, and falls in love with her beautiful adopted child, Estella, a girl of (4) own age, whom Miss Havisham has brought up to be cruel with men, as a revenge upon them. When Pip turns fourteen, he stops visiting Miss Havisham and is apprenticed to his friend and brother-in-law, Joe Gargery the blacksmith. He then learns that he has 'great expectations' from a mysterious benefactor, (5) wants him to be educated (6) a gentleman. He is sure that this benefactor is Miss Havisham, and that she wants him to marry Estella. He goes to London for his education, but spends his days lazily and starts neglecting his family and old friends. Then one day, when he is twenty-three, his real benefactor appears. To Pip's great surprise, it is Magwitch, the convict that he helped on the marshes, who in the (7) has become very rich in Australia. At first, Pip refuses to be friends with him, but he slowly changes his attitude and even tries to save him from being punished by the law. Magwitch eventually dies, but Pip has learned his lesson and has (8) a better man.

P B1 Preliminary English Test Writing Part 2

3 You see this announcement in your school magazine.

Write your article in about 100 words.

Can money come between friends?

Write an article telling us what you think and giving reasons for your answer.