

2010 ENGLISH IV SUMMER READING  
GREAT EXPECTATIONS – READING QUESTIONS

**Directions:** After reading *Great Expectations*, you will be given a writing assignment and an objective test. These reading questions should serve as a guide for what to focus on while reading the novel.

**Stage I of Pip's Expectations: Ch. I to IX**

Chapter I

1. How does Dickens use setting to convey the mood right at the opening?
2. What does Dickens' description of the first convict tell us about him?
3. What is surprising about the narrative point-of-view Dickens has adopted?
4. How does Dickens contrast the convict and Pip?
5. But in what ways are these two characters similar?
6. What objects does the convict want brought to him?
7. What personal circumstance of Pip's is convenient for the convict?

Chapter II

1. How does Dickens arouse our sympathies for certain characters?
2. Why does Pip live with village blacksmith Joe Gargery?
3. What is the nature of the relationship between these two characters?
4. What object that Pip takes the convict makes him feel guilty and nearly gets him discovered?

Chapter III

1. What is surprising about the attitude of the two convicts towards one another?
2. What object in this chapter leads to a real mystery later on?

Chapter IV

1. Explain the expression "like monumental Crusaders as to their legs."
2. What special occasion is being celebrated and how?
3. And yet why does Pip feel apprehensive and miserable?

Chapter V

1. How was the suspense of the previous chapter explained?

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2. How did the first convict show his appreciation for Pip's loyalty at this point?
3. What apparently is the cause of the hostility between the two convicts?
4. Explain: "like a wicked Noah's ark" at the very end of the chapter.

Chapter VI

1. Who is Pumblechook, and how does he get Pip into Satis House?

Chapter VII

1. How does Dickens satirize public education in this chapter?
2. Note that Pip describes his alphabet as "a bramble bush" and his fingers as "thieves"; how do these references contribute to the book's imagery?
3. Explain: "steam was yet in its infancy" (most British cities were connected by railways in 1860).
4. What is implied about England's government when Dickens has Joe tell Pip that Mrs. Joe, being given to government, does not want him to be able to read and write?

Chapter VIII

1. Note the connection between the vegetation and the prison imagery in the descriptions of both Pumblechook's shop and Miss Havisham's house; how is Pip's very name involved in this imagery?
2. Note the description of Satis (Latin, meaning "enough" or plenty" as in satisfaction) House: "old brick, and dismal and had a great many bars to it." What other type of building does the derelict mansion seem to resemble?
3. Miss Havisham behaves like an aristocrat; by \_\_\_\_\_, however, her father made his fortune, which passed to her.
4. What does Miss Havisham's appearance remind Pip of? How is this analogy apt?
5. What about Pip does Estella criticize?
6. What does his reaction to her criticism tell us about Pip?

Chapter IX

1. Why does Pip "embroider" his account of his visit to Satis House?
2. Why do Pumblechook and Mrs. Joe believe this far-fetched account?
3. Note the admonition to the reader at the very end of the chapter; how does this passage further connect the story's vegetation and the prison imagery?

Chapter X

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1. How do we know the bank notes come from the convict?
2. What does this incident with the bank notes indicate about Joe?

Chapter XI

1. Why does Miss Havisham scorn her relatives?
2. Explain how "toadies and humbugs" applies to the Pockets.
3. What strange epergne does Pip see on the table? How does this object relate to Miss Havisham's dress?

Chapter XII

1. What kind of punishment does Pip expect for striking the young gentleman?
2. Instead, Miss Havisham rewards Pip later: how?

Chapter XIII

1. Why does Pip feel uncomfortable when he and Joe visit Satis House?
2. Who takes most of the credit for Miss Havisham's generosity? Who takes the money?
3. Explain: "I should never like Joe's trade. I had liked it once, but once was not now."

Chapter XIV

1. What fear involving Estella "haunted" Pip now?
2. Pip is ashamed of his home, and is unhappy there: why doesn't he run away?

Chapter XV

1. Describe the two new characters introduced here and Pip's relationship with them.
2. How does Joe get into a fight with Orlick?
3. How does this fight become important later on?
4. What becomes of Estella?
5. Why does Pip identify himself with George Barnwell in George Lillo's play *The London Merchant*?

Chapter XVI

1. Who is suspected of the crime committed here, and why?
2. What does Dickens convey through Pip about the police?

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3. Whom does Biddy suspect of Mrs. Joe's assault, and why?

Chapter XVII

1. What additional reason does Pip now have for disliking Orlick?
2. What is the relationship between Pip and Biddy now?
3. What is the mental and emotional conflict Pip undergoes here?

Chapter XVIII

1. Where had Pip encountered the mysterious stranger before?
2. What were the conditions upon which Pip would receive his "great expectations"?
3. What reason does Pip have for thinking Jaggers is Miss Havisham's agent in terms of his suddenly receiving "great expectations"?
4. Though he now is to have wealth and education, why is Pip discontented?

Chapter XIX

1. Why have Trabb and Pumblechook changed their attitude towards Pip?
2. What clue are we given as to Trabb's true character?
3. Why does Miss Havisham fail to correct Pip when he thanks her for his fortune?

**Stage II of Pip's Expectations**

Chapter XX

1. What kind of lawyer is Mr. Jaggers? (That is, what is specialty?)
2. What is Pip's first impression of London?

Chapter XXI

1. Who is Pip's room-mate? By coincidence, when did we meet him previously/
2. Why does the selection of this young man as his companion confirm Pip's suspicions that Miss Havisham was his benefactor?

Chapter XXII

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1. What does his new friend tell Pip about Miss Havisham's past?
2. Why has she ordered Herbert's father out of her house?
3. What is Herbert's occupation? What does "cut into the Direction" suggest about his goals?

Chapter XXIII

1. What is Herbert's father's chief fault? Why is he especially suitable to educate Pip?
2. In what way are Mrs. Pocket and Pip alike?
3. How do Drummle and Startop differ?

Chapter XXIV

1. What kind of training is Mr. Pocket to give Pip?
2. What earlier impressions of Jaggers are confirmed?
3. What is Wemmick's highly pragmatic philosophy?

Chapter XXV

1. What does Pip share with Herbert besides the Barnard's Inn Chambers and the home in Hammersmith?
2. What other side of Wemmick does Pip find at his Walworth "Castle"?

Chapter XXVI

1. What is Jaggers' warning to Pip concerning Drummle?
2. What is mysterious about Molly?

Chapter XXVII

1. Why is Joe's visit not a success?
2. Why does Joe come to London?

Chapter XXVIII

1. How is the convict theme re-introduced?
2. "Verb. Sap." is a Latin abbreviation meaning "To a wise man, a word is enough." Why is this expression used here?
3. Who is famous in his hometown as Pip's earliest companion, patron and friend? What is Pip's attitude to this supposed fact?

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Chapter XXIX

1. In what role does Pip see himself as he returned to Miss Havisham's?
2. In his feelings for Estella, how does Pip come to follow Miss Havisham's teaching?
3. Why does Pip not visit Joe?

Chapter XXX

1. How did Pip "get even with" Orlick?
2. How did Herbert's "love life" show a contrast with that of Pip?
3. Why does Pip refer to the codfish and barrel of oysters he sends to Joe as "penitential"?
4. Why does Herbert use the nick-name "Handel" for Pip?
5. Why does Herbert accuse Pip of "looking into our gift-horse's mouth with a magnifying glass"?

Chapter XXXI

1. How does Pip's night at the theatre only increase his anxieties instead of easing them?

Chapter XXXII

1. Why does Dickens include a picture of Newgate Prison?
2. How does Estella appear to Pip in contrast to his visit to the prison?

Chapter XXXIII

1. Why has Estella come to London? 2. Why is Pip so full of misery after seeing her?

Chapter XXXIV

1. Why does Pip's life in London make things difficult for Herbert?
2. What Club did they join? What is the narrator's attitude towards this club?

Chapter XXXV

1. How does Mrs. Joe's death affect Pip?
2. Why does her death not bring Pip and Joe any closer together?

Chapter XXXVI

1. How do Pip's fortunes improve on his twenty-first birthday?

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2. What does Pip still not find out?

Chapter XXXVII

1. What plan does Wemmick propose for Pip's desire to help Herbert?

2. What humorous touch concerning Wemmick is shown?

Chapter XXXVIII

1. Why is Miss Havisham so pleased with Estella's behaviour?

2. How does the success of Miss Havisham's teaching cause her grief?

3. What happened to cause Pip even more pain in his pursuit of Estella?

Chapter XXXIX

1. Who is the strange visitor?

2. Why has he come?

3. What is Pip's reaction to this revelation

- in regard to himself?
- In regard to Estella?
- In regard to Joe?

**Stage III of Pip's Expectations**

Chapter XL

1. What is the new problem that Pip faces?

2. What is his frightful but rich patron's name?

3. How does Pip's discussion with Jaggers disabuse him of the notion that Miss Havisham has been his patron?

Chapter XLI

1. Upon his return, what solution does Herbert suggest?

Chapter XLII: "Magwitch's Story"

1. What kind of life had Magwitch had as a child, and then as an adult?

2. What do we learn of the cause of Magwitch's hatred for Compeyson (the second convict)?

3. What do we learn about a certain "mad lady"?

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4. What was the result of Magwitch's assault on Compeyson after their escape from the prison ship?

5. What details does Herbert add?

Chapter XLIII

1. What added danger do they now realize "Provis" to be in?

Chapter XLIV

1. Why does Miss Havisham lead Pip on to believe she was his benefactress?

2. What admission does Estella make to Pip?

3. What is Pip's reply?

Chapter XLV

1. Why is it necessary to move Magwitch?

2. What does Wemmick advise Pip to get hold of?

Chapter XLVI

1. Where is "Mr. Campbell" found by Pip?

2. Why is Pip to obtain a boat?

Chapter XLVII

1. Why does Pip return Magwitch's unopened pocket book?

2. Who sits behind Pip at the theatre?

Chapter XLVIII

1. Who does Pip feel Molly to be?

2. What reasons does he have for his suspicions?

3. What sort of husband does Jaggers think The Spider would be to Estella?

4. The phrase "over the broomstick" means "not legally married," and implies a common-law marriage. Who are the people who were "married" in this informal manner?

5. Hounslow Heath, about twelve miles west of London, was a maze of footpaths: What event transpired there?

Chapter XLIX

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1. Why does Pip go to Satis House?
2. What does Miss Havisham ask of Pip in return for the £900?
3. What information does she give him about Estella?
4. Although Pip has saved Miss Havisham from the fire, how is she when he leaves?

Chapter L

1. From what Magwitch tells Pip, what does Pip deduce?

Chapter LI

1. In confirming his conclusion, what side of his nature did Jaggers show?

Chapter LII

1. What good thing does Pip complete?
2. How has Pip's rescue of Miss Havisham delayed his plans?
3. When do they plan to put their plan into action?
4. Where does Pip go Monday night?
5. What happens to the letter which concerns his uncle Provis?

Chapter LIII

1. Who captures Pip in the old sluice house?
2. Why does Pip feel he was doomed?
3. How is Pip providentially saved?

Chapter LIV

1. What news disturbs Pip when they got Magwitch as far as the public-house on the river?
2. How are his fears justified when they set out for the steamer?
3. How does Pip's attitude toward Magwitch change after the convict had been rescued from the water?

Chapter LV

1. What happened to Compeyson, who had prevented Magwitch's escape?
2. What kept Pip from taking a job with Herbert?

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3. What is characteristic about Wemmick's wedding?

4. The "Pool" is a particularly busy stretch of the Thames between London Bridge and Greenwich: why is Provis to be kept here?

Chapter LVI

1. How does Pip repay his benefactor before Magwitch escaped his hanging sentence through death?

Chapter LVII

1. Who has nursed Pip through his illness and paid his debts?

2. What does Joe tell Pip of Miss Havisham's generosity in death?

Chapter LVIII

1. What does Pip plan to do after Joe left?

Chapter LVIII

1. What does Pip do when he found Joe and Biddy happily married?

Chapter LIX

1. When Pip visited Biddy and Joe and their two children eleven years later, what did Biddy advise him to do?

2. What had Pip heard of Estella?

3. What change had come over Estella when he met her at the site of Satis House?

4. How does "a cold silvery mist" recall the end of the First Stage of Pip's expectations? Why is Dickens making this connection?

5. In what ways does the revised ending seem as believable as the original one?