

WOLFNOTE SUMMARY OF...

**CHARLES DICKENS'
GREAT EXPECTATIONS**



Context

Pip is the narrator of the story, which begins when he is aged seven. He is an orphan living with his sister and her husband who is the local blacksmith. Their home is set in the marshes of Kent.

One evening while visiting his parents' graves, an escaped convict, who orders him at the peril of his life to obtain food and a file for his leg irons, grabs Pip. Pip obeys and the convict is soon captured, but he protects Pip by claiming to have stolen the items himself.

Miss Havisham, who lives in a grand house outside Pip's village, is a wealthy woman, who was jilted on her wedding day and her home has not changed since that date. The dining room table is still prepared for the wedding feast. Pip is asked to visit the house and play with Miss Havisham's adopted daughter, Estella. Estella is a very beautiful young girl and she captivates Pip. She treats him coldly and harshly, and Pip dreams of becoming worthy enough of her, and he is determined to obtain some sort of education.

Some years later Pip is sponsored by Miss Havisham to become apprentice to his brother-in-law, Joe. Pip feels this is a type of imprisonment and he can see no way of obtaining his dreams.

One day a lawyer named Jaggers, who also represents Miss Havisham, meets Pip and Joe to advise them that Pip has a secret benefactor, and that he is now a man of great expectations. Pip naturally assumes that the benefactor is Miss Havisham, and that he is being groomed to marry Estella.

He is sent to London to become a young gentleman, and he resides with Herbert Pocket with whom he becomes a great friend. Now that he is to be a gentleman, he turns his back on Joe and his roots.

After several years, Estella still treats Pip harshly, even though he is now a man of means and he wonders if he will ever win her hand.

One stormy night, a convict called Magwitch barges into Pip's room, announcing that he is Pip's benefactor. It is the same convict that Pip helped as a boy. The convict has dedicated his life to making Pip a gentleman, using the fortune he has accumulated in Australia. Magwitch is 'a lifer', and if he is caught in England, he will be executed.

Pip and his friend Herbert arrange for Magwitch to escape to the continent, the plan being that Pip will accompany him.

Magwitch's former partner in crime was a man called Compeyson, who had been a gentleman and had jilted Miss Havisham. Estella is Magwitch's daughter and she has been raised by Miss Havisham to break men's hearts in revenge for the pain she has suffered.

Pip's character was not likeable when he was rich, being a snob and self-centered. Now that his source of income will cease, his character starts to change for the good. He now cares for Magwitch and is concerned that the authorities will capture him. With the assistance of others including Jaggers' clerk, Wemmick, an elaborate plan is arranged to smuggle Magwitch out of England.

Estella marries a lout named Bentley Drummle, which annoys Pip greatly. He realizes that he cannot win her, but wishes she would marry for her own happiness.

Miss Havisham repents over her evil behavior and begs for Pip's forgiveness. Later she bends over the fire and her wedding dress catches alight. She is badly injured.

Pip and Herbert row down the river with Magwitch to rendezvous with a steamboat bound for France. Customs Officers and Compeyson discover them. The two convicts struggle and Compeyson is drowned. Magwitch later dies in prison, knowing that he has a daughter who is a lady and Pip loves her. He dies in peace.

Pip is reconciled with Joe and then spends some time abroad working with his friend Herbert.

Some years later he returns to find out that Drummle treated Estella badly and that he is now dead.

The story ends with the Pip and Estella hand in hand in the garden of Satis House where they first met as children.

The Author

Charles Dickens was born in England in 1812 and had a difficult childhood, his family being always short of money. In fact his father spent some time in a Debtors' prison.

It is clear that his unhappy childhood affected his writing in later life and many of his books deal with the injustices upon children such as Great Expectations, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield. Dickens

works became very popular during his lifetime mainly because his characterization captured the hearts and minds of the reading public, and also because they were affordable in that they were published in the form of serials.

His books are full of colorful characters and intriguing plots and was read over and over again giving lasting entertainment.

Great Expectations was written in 1860 and together with David Copperfield, it could be described as his autobiographical work. The novel was written during a traumatic time for Dickens who was divorcing his wife and also had a disagreement with his publishers. It was not received well by literary critics, but the public loved it in general, who considered it to be his best work to date. It also came at a time when his financial situation was precarious, and he derived a considerable income from its publication.

Dickens' biographer George Woodcock, states that due to the disagreement with his publishers, Dickens created his own magazine called 'All the Year Round' and the novel Great Expectations appeared in this publication.

Great Expectations depicts early Victorian life in England during the time of the Industrial Revolution where the social structure was experiencing great upheaval. It was a time when the rich were very rich and the poor led a life near to slavery. The novel provides an insight into both country life and city life where the only advantages that the poor have in the countryside is a clean environment.

Dickens deals with the power that money has and documents Pip's struggle from being a bound apprentice in the forge to one of the rich gentlemen in the city.

Dickens died on 9th June 1870 at the age of 58. He was buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey and remains one of England's most popular authors and is read throughout the world in many languages.

Main Characters

Pip is the protagonist and narrator of Great Expectations. When the story commences he is aged seven, orphaned and being raised by his sister and brother-in-law in the marshes of Kent. He makes the transition from apprentice blacksmith to young gentleman and his character suffers serious changes during this period. He is determined to improve himself in order to win the hand of Estella.

Estella is the young adopted daughter of Miss Havisham, who has been brought up to break men's hearts. She becomes Pip's unattainable dream throughout the novel. She is both beautiful and haughty, and delights in taunting Pip.

Miss Havisham is an eccentric wealthy old woman who lives in a manor house near Pip's village. All the clocks in her home are stopped at the time when she was jilted and she is still dressed in her faded wedding dress. She has raised Estella to be the instrument of her revenge, training her to break men's hearts.

Abel Magwitch. At the start of the book, is the memorable scene between a young Pip and the fearsome escaped convict, Magwitch. Pip acts kindly towards the convict, stealing food and a file for him, which leaves a lasting impression on the convict. He is deported to Australia where he makes a fortune, which he uses to make Pip a gentleman.

Joe Gargery is Pip's brother-in-law and village blacksmith and is the only adult character to show any affection towards Pip. He is more than a stepfather to Pip, but is a great friend throughout the story, despite Pip's bad treatment towards him, when he has become a snob.

Jaggers is a very powerful character in the book, which is hired by Magwitch to supervise Pip's education as a gentleman. He happens to also be the lawyer for Miss Havisham and he made arrangements for the adoption of Estella.

Wemmick is Jaggers' clerk who becomes Pip's friend and masterminds Magwitch's escape from England. He is one of the strangest characters in Great Expectations who has almost a split personality – one for business and one for his private life. He is also obsessed with portable property and his fingers are covered in many rings.

Mrs. Joe is Pip's sister who brings him up harshly and bullies both Pip and her husband.

Convict Magwitch
(Chapters 1 – 6)

Summary

It is just before Christmas and Pip, a seven-year-old orphan, visits the graves of his parents in the local churchyard. He lives in Kent at the estuary of the River Thames, which is a bleak, flat, marshy landscape. He lives with his sister who is twenty years his senior, Georgiana and her husband Joe Gargery, the village blacksmith.

Suddenly, a convict in leg irons confronts him. He has escaped from the nearby prison ships called 'hulks'. He turns Pip upside down and shakes him to see what the contents of his pockets hold, and finding nothing, he threatens Pip into bringing him food. Failure to do this will cause the convict to hunt Pip down and eat his heart and liver. Pip agrees to help him and stumbles away towards his home.

Pip returns home to find Joe agitated because of the length of time he has been away, saying that Mrs. Joe will hit him on his backside with the 'Tickler', a wax-tipped cane.

Mrs. Joe is always reminding Pip that she has 'brought him up by hand'. Pip notices that she is quick to use her hand, both on him and Joe. During supper Pip manages to smuggle some bread into his pants for the convict.

In bed, Pip hears the guns from the prison ship announcing that another convict has escaped. He spends a restless night unable to fall asleep, and he rises early in the morning and steals some food and a file as requested by the convict. On his way to the churchyard, Pip runs into a second convict, but manages to escape him and eventually finds his convict. He watches the man devour the food and asks whether he will leave any for the other escaped convict. Realizing that he is not alone on the marshes, the convict stops eating and starts to file at his leg iron.

Pip is haunted by the fear that the food he has stolen will be missed.

Mrs. Joe is busy preparing for Christmas dinner and she sends Pip and Joe to church to get out of her way.

After church, the guests arrive for dinner who include Mr. Wopsle, the church clerk, Mr. And Mrs. Hubble, the wheelwright and his wife, and Mr. Pumblechook, Joe's pompous uncle, a successful seed-merchant in the nearby town. Pip is treated badly at the dinner, being squeezed between two large adults and receiving only scraps of food that no-one else wants. He is in constant fear that the missing food will be discovered and he will have to face the wrath of Mrs. Joe. One of the items that he took was a savory pie, and when he is told to fetch it from the pantry, the tension finally breaks and he makes a run for the door, only to collide with a sergeant holding a pair of handcuffs.

The sergeant and his men are tracking missing convicts and they need Joe to repair the handcuffs immediately.

Joe asks if he and Pip can accompany the sergeant in the search for the convicts. The search continues and the two convicts are found fighting each other in a muddy ditch.

Strangely, Pip's convict Magwitch, has risked recapture in order to bring the other convict in. Magwitch sees Pip and advises the guard that he had stolen some food from the blacksmith's house together with a file. This confession saves Pip from any suspicion surrounding the missing food.

Later, back at the house, the guests and Mrs. Joe wonder how the convict got into the house.

Interpretation

This story is being told by Pip in the first person, when he is older, and it starts by giving details of his early childhood. The choice by Dickens of a retrospective first person narrator, gives the reader the immediate effect of being part of an intimate and personal conversation.

The action starts straight away with the scene in the churchyard, which is full of atmosphere and tension.

This story was written in serial form in a publication and to enable the first readers of this tale to identify easily with the characters, Dickens gives each an individual tag which sometimes will serve the character throughout the tale or will give a particular description of a character at a specific part of the story. For example, Pip is described as 'the small bundle of shivers'. Mrs. Gargery, or Mrs. Joe, is described as 'having a heavy hand'. The convict's dialogue is identified with the substitution of 'w' for 'v' in certain words, such as 'wittles' for 'vittles'. For Joe, whenever he refers to Pip, it is 'old chap' and he uses 'w's' in words like 'conwict' instead of 'convict'.

The relationships in Pip's house are made clear right at the start. Pip's sister rules the house with an iron hand, which she uses to beat both her husband and brother. This is due to her own insecurity and she wants Pip and Joe to be in no doubt that they pair of them could not do without her. Pip views Joe as a fellow-sufferer and regards him more as a best friend than a stepfather.

Although Pip is terrorized by the convict, he has a strange fascination for the man. They are both at the mercy and control of others and are victims of life. Pip's good nature comes to the fore in his willingness to help the unfortunate convict. Pip struggles with the dishonesty of stealing food for the convict with the good of caring for another suffering human being.

His sister has never let him forget that he owes his existence to her and must be eternally grateful to her for the sacrifices she has made.

Dickens is careful to have all the loose ends tied up at this stage in the story and makes it clear to the reader that the two convicts are enemies.

Dickens shows that the dinner guests are hypocrites. They continually hurl verbal abuse about Pip and the young generation saying that they behave like pigs, whilst they sit and stuff their faces full of food and just give scraps for Pip to eat.

Sarcasm is used in Dickens' description of the characters. For example, Uncle Pumblechook is described as a large, hard breathing, middle-aged, slow man with a mouth like a fish, dull staring eyes and sandy hair standing upright on his head, so that he looked as if he had just been all but choked, and had at that moment come to.

The reader feels real sympathy for Pip and can appreciate the pressure he is under. Pip's clutching of the table leg in terror every time he thinks the missing food will be discovered, helps emphasize his predicament.

Joe's warm-hearted character is emphasized in these chapters. His reaction in hearing that the convict stole his food is 'God knows you're welcome to it. We wouldn't have you starved, poor miserable fellow creatur'.

The reader may be surprised that Joe is content to be dominated by his wife and relatives.

Pip loves Joe very much and he is the only good thing in Pip's life at this age. Joe is the only gentle adult around him and he does not wish to upset him by saying that he stole the food and the file, so he keeps this secret and suffers with this burden of guilt.

Pip, the older narrator, judges himself harshly by saying that he was a coward.

There is also a hint that there may be a return of Magwitch into the story, but what form this will take is not known. However, Magwitch makes the effort of advising the sergeant that it was he who stole the food from Joe's house. Magwitch respects Pip's silence and the reader must appreciate that the stealing of food was a major offence in these times.

Satis House **(Chapters 7 – 12)**

Summary

At seven, Pip is not old enough to be apprenticed in Joe's forge, but Mrs. Joe ensures that he is kept busy with odd jobs around the district, and any money he receives she keeps. He also attends an evening school run by Mr. Wopsle's great aunt who falls asleep during lessons and they are taken over by Biddy, a fellow orphan, like Pip, and the woman's granddaughter. Pip learns quickly and when he shows Joe a letter that he has written, he is surprised to find that Joe cannot read or write. Joe explains that he had to work from an early age in order to support his family and had no time for school.

He explains how lonely he was when his parents died and how happy he was to have Pip's sister join him at the forge.

Pip says that he will help Joe with his letters. He agrees, providing that Mrs. Joe doesn't find out because she would feel threatened by his improvement.

Word is received that Pip is to go to Miss Havisham's to play with her adopted daughter. Miss Havisham is a wealthy, but reclusive woman and Mrs. Joe hopes there will be financial gain from this arrangement.

Pip is to be sent into town to spend the night at Pumblechook's and see Miss Havisham in the morning. Pip meets Miss Havisham who is dressed in an old wedding gown and says that her heart is broken and that she has not seen the sun since before Pip was born.

The house has not been touched since her wedding day; all the clocks are stopped at the time when her wedding was cancelled.

He meets Estella, the proud and haughty adopted daughter of Miss Havisham. She delights in humiliating Pip, calling him a common laboring boy with coarse hands.

Miss Havisham taunts Pip with Estella's beauty and encourages her to break Pip's heart.

Pip is told to return in six days and then he is taken aside and fed like a dog. Pip feels very hurt and angry and expels his fury by kicking the wall and pulling at his hair.

When he returns home, his sister wishes to know everything about the visit, so he makes up a story, as he doesn't think they will appreciate the truth. However, he tells Joe what really happened and Joe tells Pip that lies don't work and he should think about what he has done when he says his prayers. Pip blames Joe for his own commonness and roughness.

One evening in the local inn Pip notices a stranger watching him. The stranger stirs his drink with a file, the same file Pip stole for the convict on the marshes. Pip knows the man has been sent by Magwitch.

As the man leaves, he gives Pip a shilling wrapped in old paper. When Pip and Joe go home, they discover that the old paper is 2 x £1 notes. Mrs. Joe sets the money aside and that night, Pip is haunted by dreams of convicts, files etc.

On one of his regular visits to Miss Havisham's, Pip meets her strange relatives. They pretend to be concerned about Miss Havisham's welfare, but they are waiting for her death in order that they can inherit her wealth. Again, Estella taunts Pip and when he responds by saying that she is not as insulting as last time, she slaps him hard, trying to make him cry. He tells her that he will never cry for her.

While there, Pip also meets a large burly man who advised him to behave himself.

Miss Havisham has Pip walk her round the dining room, which contains the wedding feast. The table is covered by a rotting wedding cake crawling with bugs.

Pip is then sent outside to have his food and he meets a pale young gentleman and they proceed to have a fight. Estella is delighted at two males fighting over her and she rewards the winner, Pip, with a kiss.

The visits to Satis House continue every alternate day for around nine months and a regular pattern emerges where they will play cards and Miss Havisham will taunt Pip with Estella's beauty. Pip is able to tell nobody about these visits except Biddy.

One day Joe is requested to attend with Pip as Miss Havisham wishes to set him up in apprenticeship. Mrs. Joe is furious that she has not been invited.

Interpretation

The author takes this opportunity to lambaste the educational system through his description of the night school that Pip attends.

He also criticizes child labor and the way in which families used their children in order to obtain financial gain.

These are subjects that Dickens knows from first-hand experience having received a limited education and having to work to support his own family.

Dickens uses descriptive passages to paint the scene inside Satis House, the home of Miss Havisham.

Miss Havisham is described as corpse-like, similar to waxwork and resembling a skeleton.

Pip is burdened by guilt, gratitude, commonness and secrecy from the adults he comes into contact with.

Mrs. Joe continually reminds him of the burden he is, which makes him grateful that they took him in.

Miss Havisham and Estella continually remind him how common he is. When they play cards they ridicule him for calling knaves 'jacks'.

He is forced to keep secrets from both Joe and Georgiana regarding the events at Satis House and he cannot tell Mrs. Joe that he is helping to educate Joe.

Satis House is a fantasy world with Miss Havisham as the witch and Estella as the beautiful princess. Although Pip did not like the experience of visiting Miss Havisham, he realizes that he cannot escape going there again and, therefore, to make it easier, he creates this fantasy world that is Satis House. The pull that this house will have on Pip will increase as the story develops. Pip is not very complimentary regarding Biddy, but she is the only adult that can improve Pip's position, so he selfishly uses this relationship.

Despite his lack of education Joe is depicted as a genuine, fair man and one of the purest characters in the story. He is mindful that Mrs. Joe will feel undermined if he becomes educated, so any lessons he has with Pip must be kept a secret. Joe has a unique ability to see past people's faults and see only their good points. This is another important feature that will have repercussions in the future.

Pip feels anger towards Joe because of his coarseness. His anger is caused by his visit to Satis House where he was hurt by Estella's treatment.

The interactions between Pip, Miss Havisham and Estella, are key elements in the story. Miss Havisham is a hard woman who wears her emotional scars like a badge of honor. Time stopped for her the minute her wedding was cancelled. Her only objective in life is now to wreak revenge on all males. Pip notices this when Miss Havisham tells Estella to break his heart. Estella is like a bright light and he is like a moth drawn to it. He wants to please her and feels trapped and drawn to the flame. He is hooked, admiring the unattainable princess while she rejects him.

Pip is carrying an ever-increasing number of secrets. The theft of food for the convict, now some years ago, re-emerges when he sees the man in the inn. Pip feels that he is tainted due to his connections with the criminal element.

He is also ashamed of getting into a fight with the young gentleman at Satis House, especially beating him, but at least he got the reward of a kiss from Estella.

Under normal circumstances, Pip would have been grateful to Miss Havisham for sponsoring his apprenticeship, but of course, this is almost imprisonment because he can never hope to attain Estella's affection by being an apprentice blacksmith.

He is determined, though, to rise above his lowly position and that is why he uses Biddy in order to improve his education. She is below his aspirations and he does not notice her as a person, but merely as a means to gaining an education.

Dickens uses satire in describing Miss Havisham's parasitic relatives who are Miss Sarah Pocket, Camilla and Mr. Raymond, and Georgiana Pocket. They are like vultures waiting on the death of Miss Havisham and they cannot stand one another and so they squabble. He describes Sarah Pocket as 'a little dry brown corrugated old woman with a face that might have been made of walnut shells and a large mouth like a cat's without the whiskers' so the tag for Sarah Pocket's character is 'the walnut shell countenance' and this phrase is repeated throughout the book.

Mrs. Joe is furious at not receiving an invitation to Miss Havisham's because she does not want to face up to the fact that Joe can handle the visit without her support. Her dominance is, therefore, threatened.

The electricity between Pip and Estella is formed in these chapters. She endeavors to make him cry, but he refuses to show that she has power over him. It is interesting to see her reaction when Pip beats the pale young gentleman in a fistfight. She is flushed with excitement and lets Pip kiss her.

Miss Havisham reveals a chink in her hard exterior when she realizes one day that Pip is too old for play. She genuinely will miss his visits and rewards him by arranging his apprenticeship with Joe. She may think that she has failed in breaking Pip's heart and may see this as a reward to Pip, but to him it is like a death sentence. She does not realize that Pip is obsessed with Estella's beauty and that she has obtained revenge on Pip by making him coarser.

There are also some other new elements introduced to the plot. Reference is made to a large burly man with soap-scented hands who bites his forefinger. Again this is another tag for a character 'the soap scented man', who will surface again later in the story.

Pumblechook has the habit of rumpling Pip's hair, the tag for this character being 'hair rumpling'.

Satis House is depicted as being the center of a web of intrigue and mystery, and Dickens symbolizes this by the description that the house is covered in spiders' webs.

The purpose of the first twelve chapters of this novel, apart from introducing the reader to the main characters, is to show what a disturbing childhood Pip had, as did most children at that time. It was common practice for adults to live off the labors of children. They were looked on as almost slaves of the family. Dickens sums this up by the burly man's comments about boys being 'that they are bad set of fellows' which conveys the view that children were not valued or cherished, but for the most part were to be punished and controlled.

Imprisoned **(Chapters 13 – 17)**

Summary

Mrs. Joe decides that she will accompany Joe and Pip when they visit Miss Havisham and she will stay at Pumblechook's house. The uncomfortable-looking Joe dressed in his Sunday suit looks ridiculous while he waits on Miss Havisham at Satis House. Pip is embarrassed at Joe's appearance and notices Estella laughing at his conduct. Miss Havisham provides a substantial premium to Joe for Pip's apprenticeship saying that he has been a good playmate for Estella. Joe brings the £25 back to Mrs. Joe who is at Pumblechook's house. Joe is wise enough to say that Miss Havisham sends her regards to Mrs. Joe and this seems to soothe her mood. The amount of money is a tidy sum for these times, and Pumblechook immediately takes them to the court to have Pip bound. Pip feels like a criminal as he is dragged along to the court. He feels that his life has now been tied firmly to the forge and he feels that it is like a prison sentence.

His worst fear is that Estella might see him one day working in the forge with a blackened face and coarse hands. He is now too old to attend the evening school and must teach himself from books. He still intends to help Joe with his learning.

Some time later, Pip asks for a day's holiday from the forge to go and thank Miss Havisham for the sponsorship, this being an excuse to see Estella again. Joe thinks this is a bad idea, but allows him to go.

Orlick, who is a journeyman in the forge, is extremely jealous of Pip, and he too asks for time off, but Mrs. Joe refuses this request. Orlick is abusive and insults Mrs. Joe who insists that Joe should fight Orlick in order to defend her honor. Joe beats Orlick and then the two make amends for the quarrel in the inn later on that evening.

At Miss Havisham's, Pip's visit turns into a disaster. Estella is in Paris and Miss Havisham taunts Pip by saying that he has lost her forever. She dismisses Pip and requests that he does not return until his birthday, if he wishes.

On his return home, he hears that his sister has been attacked and is seriously ill.

The police investigate the attack on Mrs. Joe. The only evidence they have is that the weapon used was a set of rusted convict leg irons and she was hit over the head whilst facing the fireplace. She has survived the attack, but now requires constant care.

Joe, Pip and Orlick all seem to have alibis.

Mrs. Joe continually makes a signal, which is the letter 'T'. Biddy is the only one to establish this and she ends up caring up for Mrs. Joe. Biddy determines that the signal is meant to represent a hammer and that she is asking for Orlick.

Pip's continual self-education has made him vain and he is very contemptuous of Biddy. He considers her to be pleasant and sweet-tempered, but not very beautiful. He tells her that he wants to become a gentleman and to win Estella. Biddy points out that Estella has been treating him cruelly and that she is not worth having. One senses that Biddy has feelings for Pip, but she realizes that they can never be a couple.

Orlick also is interested in Biddy and Pip is jealous of this, although he does not want her, nobody else is to have her, and he does his best to frustrate Orlick's advances.

Interpretation

Relationships between the main characters intensify during these chapters.

We have the contrasts of black and white with Joe and Biddy on one side and Mrs. Joe and Orlick on the other with Pip someplace between the two, in limbo.

Goaded by his enraged wife, Joe is cornered into a fight with Orlick in order to defend her position in the forge. The whole situation has murderous undertones, and the result is the attack on Mrs. Joe later that day. Orlick is a deprived member of society and has little self-esteem. The insults he receives from Mrs. Joe merely add fuel to his built up anger. Although many locals find Mrs. Joe's behavior as that of a bully, none do anything about it, except perhaps Orlick, on this occasion.

Joe instinctively knows that Pip's visit to Miss Havisham will be a mistake, but he does not stand in his way. Pip, however, does not see the folly of his visit. Pip feels guilty that he was ashamed of Joe when they visited Miss Havisham's house earlier to arrange his apprenticeship. He hopes to see Estella, but he also wants to impress on Miss Havisham that he will rise above the forge because he is determined to better himself in order to be worthy of Estella's affection.

Pip is very much like Dickens in that he is determined to teach himself through the reading of books. In this way he hopes to become less coarse. This is the only way that he can escape from the prison of the forge. In his heart, Pip knows that pursuing Estella is wrong, but he cannot let go, despite Biddy trying to make him see the reality of his situation. Pip has become a snob and he is so enthralled by Estella that he fails to see what a good person Biddy is. He may be educated, but he is totally ignorant concerning relationships with other people. He seems to delight in undermining Biddy's position. Pip wants everything. He desires Estella, but wishes he could love Biddy. He is in turmoil at this stage of the story.

Guilt returns concerning his young childhood when he discovers that the weapon used in the attack on Mrs. Joe was the leg irons that his convict had filed off years earlier.

The reader has received clear hints that Orlick was Mrs. Joe's attacker and Biddy is the only character to come close to making the connection.

Expectations Great (Chapters 18 and 19)

Summary

It is now four years into Pip's apprenticeship.

One night in the Jolly Bargeman Inn, Pip and Joe engage in discussions with Wopsle. Pip notices a man that he has seen at Miss Havisham's being the one that had the scent of soap. He comes over to them and introduces himself as a lawyer from London called Jaggers and he has news for Pip. Pip is to receive a handsome property and, therefore, has great expectations. Pip views this news as a dream come true and thinks this is Miss Havisham's gift because Jaggers is her lawyer.

However, there are two conditions that come with this gift.

Firstly, Pip must not ask who the benefactor is. This will be made clear to him at some time in the future.

Secondly, he must keep the name of Pip.

Jaggers also suggests that Pip should study to become a gentleman and that he has arranged for him to lodge with Matthew Pocket, a relative of Miss Havisham's in London. Jaggers goes on to say that he has been paid for doing this task, otherwise he would not be here. Jaggers then presses Joe regarding financial compensation for the loss of his apprentice in the forge. Joe is indignant that Pip can be thought of as a commodity to be bought and sold, and is ready to fight Jaggers.

That evening, Joe is distraught at the thought of losing Pip to the big city and Pip is angry with him for being so morose.

The next day Pip heads towards town in order to obtain some new clothes. Trabb, the tailor, falls over himself in being helpful and yells at his assistant for not being respectful enough to Pip.

Pumblechook comes into the scene and shakes Pip's hand vigorously pretending that they have always been the best of friends from when Pip was a child.

Pip wears his clothes to Miss Havisham's and she goes along with Pip's assumption that she is his secret benefactor.

On the day of his departure, he does not wish Joe and Biddy to come with him to the stagecoach, as he is ashamed to be seen with them. On the coach he feels guilty about the way he left Joe and Biddy and considers getting off the coach and returning to make amends. However, he cannot make a firm decision and after a bit, the coach has gone too far for him to return back.

Interpretation

There is a wealth of tags surrounding the characters in these two chapters.

Jaggers, who was previously known as the soap-scented man, has additional tags such as bushy eyebrows, biting his forefinger, and his watch chain.

Pumblechook has the tag of 'May I?' every time he shakes Pip's hand.

Jaggers is an honest man and quite straightforward in his dealings with Pip and Joe. He seems to be an honorable person.

Joe shows the depth of his love for Pip in these chapters, being both overjoyed at Pip's good fortune, but distraught at his departure. This is illustrated in the quotation 'Joe laid his hand upon my shoulder with the touch of a woman. I have often thought of him since, like the steam hammer that can crush a man or pat an eggshell, in his combination of strength and gentleness.' His intense feelings for Pip are demonstrated when he is ready to accost Jaggers for suggesting that any amount of money could ever replace Pip.

It is difficult to decide who is the more pompous, Pip or Pumblechook, and these two characters are very much alike in this part of the story. Pumblechook is smarmy in his dealings with the wealthy Pip, shaking his hand and saying 'May I?' all the time. He reminds Pip that he is 'the humble instrument' of Pip's good fortune (through introducing Pip to Miss Havisham) and he never misses a moment to take credit for this turn of affairs.

Pip has become pompous and snobbish and has noticed how much nicer everybody is to him e.g. the tailor.

He is annoyed at Biddy and Joe for their sadness at his departure and also because they are happy for his good fortune. There is no pleasing him. Biddy shows true dignity and composure when she defends Joe and apologizes to Pip and tells Pip her feelings towards him will always be the same.

There is a conflict between good and evil within Pip towards the end of Chapter 19. This revolves round his final farewells to Joe and Biddy. On the coach he has second thoughts about his behavior and considers getting out and returning to make a proper farewell. However, he shows that he is quite a shallow person by waiting until it is too late before deciding he was wrong.

London life

(Chapters 20 – 24)

Summary

Jaggers' office is situated in a rundown business area of London and Pip arrives to find the lawyer absent. Pip decides to explore the area and ends up at the Smithfield Markets passing through the filth, fat and foam of that area.

He then goes to Bartholomew Close where many people are waiting to see Jaggers, as they hope to hire him, or hear news of relatives' cases.

Jaggers eventually arrives, but will only deal with those who have paid their bills. Jaggers tells Pip that he has arranged for him to stay at Barnard Inn with Mr. Pocket's son until Monday, when they will go to Mr. Pocket's house. Jaggers gives Pip an allowance and tells him that he will keep account of his spending to establish when Pip starts running up debts. He fully expects Pip to do this.

Jaggers' clerk is a Mr. Wemmick whose fingers are covered in mourning rings, received from dead clients. Wemmick takes Pip to the Barnard Inn where he meets Herbert Pocket. Pip realizes that this is the pale young gentleman from Miss Havisham's with whom he had a fight.

The two soon become good friends and Herbert gives Pip the nickname 'Handel', after the piece of music composed by Handel called 'The Harmonious Blacksmith'. During dinner, Herbert takes the opportunity of teaching Pip the correct table manners. They have a long conversation concerning Jaggers, Miss Havisham, Estella, and the Pocket family.

Jaggers is Miss Havisham's lawyer and he also knows Herbert's father, Matthew Pocket, he being Miss Havisham's cousin. Miss Havisham was to have married a fine gentleman, but he swindled her out of some money and left her at the altar.

Estella's origins are not known, but she has always been at Miss Havisham's. Herbert does not like her because she is hard and proud, and Miss Havisham wants Estella to be a tool of revenge for her against all mankind.

Pip explains the circumstances concerning his good fortune, and both men agree that Miss Havisham is probably the benefactor.

Herbert takes Pip to meet the rest of the Pocket family. There are children everywhere who are looked after by servants, and there is little or no supervision by Matthew and Mrs. Pocket. She seems oblivious to the bedlam and spends most of her time reading a book. Mr. Pocket seems bewildered, clearly a man not in charge of his household or his wife.

Mrs. Pocket is pre-occupied with titles and nobility, being convinced that she is descended from upper class lineage. The servants who keep the best food for them downstairs run the whole household. Mr. Pocket, a tutor and literary editor, had a promising life at Cambridge University, but his early marriage impaired his progress. He now studies alongside two other men who are Bentley Drummle and Startop. Pip splits his time between the Pocket's home and Herbert's flat. He decides to take up rowing on the Thames with Drummle and Startop. Drummle is a rather distasteful individual, rather like a wealthy Orlick, but Startop has a bright personality although he is slightly effeminate.

The other parasitical relatives of Miss Havisham clearly show their dislike of Pip, in particular Camilla, Georgiana and Sarah.

Mr. Pocket advises Pip that the aim is for Pip not to have any formal training in any profession, but just to be generally educated so that he can hold his own in the company of prosperous society.

Pip makes regular visits to Jaggers' office in order to receive his allowance.

Wemmick shows Pip the rings on his fingers, which were given to him by deceased clients as a means for him to remember them. He considers the rings to be portable property. Wemmick invites Pip to come to his home and he accepts. There he meets Wemmick's father who is called 'the aged parent'. Wemmick has undergone a transformation from a law clerk to a generous and caring son to his father. He has a strange home which he regards as his castle and it includes a moat, bridge and turret, and every night at 9.00 p.m. he fires a canon. He keeps pigs, rabbits and chickens in the garden, which help him to make ends meet. Pip discovers that Wemmick keeps the two parts of his life very separate.

Interpretation

Pip's feelings of excitement and anticipation are soon quashed when he views the filth and gloom of London. He wonders why he has decided to come to this sprawling city that he feels is much over-rated. There seems to be a lack of communication between the citizens of London illustrated by Wemmick's surprise when Pip reaches to shake his hand. It seems that basic rituals of friendship and kindness have been forgotten, or are only used when you are trying to get something out of someone else.

However, some of the colorful characters bring light to the gloomy surroundings.

Herbert Pocket is a very likeable fellow and apologizes to Pip for the sparse quarters that he has, but is proud of the fact that he is supporting himself. He has dreams for the future, but Pip feels that he will never achieve his dreams.

Jaggers is also shown to be an honorable man, being straightforward in his dealings with his clients. He warns Pip not to get carried away with his money, and to keep debts to a minimum.

The treatment of children at this time is obviously a subject close of Dickens' heart. He again gives an illustration of this by his description of the Pocket household. It is clear that the children are raising themselves and that their parents have abdicated responsibility for their welfare and leave this in the hands of paid nurses and servants. They fall on their heads, swallow pins and endure similar emergencies to which Mrs. Pocket is totally oblivious.

The children of poor people are shown to have been used to support adults and provide money for the household, whilst the children of well-off families are left to their own devices.

The reader should also take note of the description of the face casts in Jaggers' office, which were taken from hanged clients of Jaggers.

Another interesting character is Wemmick, and when Pip first met him he considered him to be a dried-up old stick of a man, but on visiting his home, Pip could see his true nature being a caring son to his aged father, working hard to support the household on a low income. He has made a point of collecting portable property (rings), not because he is greedy, but because he is realistic about his finances. Wemmick is trapped in the drudgery of his soul-destroying work as a law clerk where his sensitivity and creativity is smothered. Another tag put on him is that he has 'a letterbox mouth'.

The reader also meets Bentley Drummle who has a similar nature to Orlick, being surly and quick-tempered.

Visitors

(Chapters 26 to 28)

Summary

Jaggers invites Pip, Herbert, Drummle and Startop to dinner at his house.

They meet first at Jaggers' office and Pip is intrigued by Jaggers' cleaning ritual. He meticulously cleans his hands between clients or court cases, hence the continual scent of soap that surrounds him, but he

has never witnessed the final act, just prior to Jagers heading for home. In addition to the usual washing, Jagers also scrubs his face, gargles his throat and uses a penknife to scrape underneath his fingernails.

Although Jagers lives in a large house, he only uses three rooms.

Over dinner, Jagers engages in questioning his guests, as he likes to obtain information concerning their personalities. He is particularly interested in Drummle and refers to him as the spider.

Jagers personally attends to his guests, but he receives some help from his maid. She is, according to Wemmick, a caged animal who has been tamed by Jagers. Pip notices a deep scar on the maid's wrist. The drink flows freely at dinner and some of the young men quarrel. Jagers announces that he has work left to do and ushers his guests out.

Something that Pip has been dreading is a visit from Joe, and he receives a note that Joe will meet him at the Barnard Inn. When Joe arrives he is ill at ease and he looks ridiculous in his Sunday clothes, and he continually fidgets with his hat. He further annoys Pip by calling him 'sir' and making silly statements like 'he would not keep a pig here because it is too close'. His table manners also embarrass Pip and he struggles with his fork and food. Finally Joe delivers the message sent by Miss Havisham, which is the main purpose of his visit. It is that Estella is back and would like to see him. Joe leaves shortly afterwards and again Pip feels guilt that he did not make Joe feel more comfortable. He decides to go after him, but is too late.

Pip journeys home on the coach and two of the passengers are convicts who are being transferred to the hulks. Pip recognizes one of them as the man who had given him the shilling and 2 x £1 notes. They are talking about Pip's convict saying that he was made 'a lifer'.

Pip has decided to stay at the Blue Boar Inn and although he plans to see Joe, he keeps finding excuses to avoid the meeting. He reads the local newspaper where there is an article about Pumblechook who claims to be Pip's first benefactor.

Interpretation

Jagers' life is his work and although he lives in a substantial house, it needs work done to it. He is interested in Drummle because he views him as a potential client. Jagers' legal work deals with the seedier side of life; usually characters that have a short temper and get themselves into trouble. Jagers has taken on the role of guardian for Pip and warns him to stay clear of Drummle. He obtains his living from these undesirables and feels contamination from them, hence the ritualistic hand washing and cleaning. It is his way of separating himself from the criminal world and from any emotional attachments in his life.

His maid is an interesting character who had a wild nature, which has been tamed and controlled by Jagers. The ugly scar on her wrist is evidence of a violent past, and she waits almost in fear for commands from Jagers.

Joe's visit to London and Pip is a disaster. He feels uncomfortable in his Sunday clothes and Pip does nothing to put him at ease. Pip refers sarcastically in the book to his hat being like 'a bird's nest'. However, Joe keeps his dignity intact, delivering his message from Miss Havisham and departing quickly. He realizes that he will not be able to spend time with Pip in London, and he decides that Pip will not see him again in these clothes. Joe tells Pip that he is welcome at the forge any time he likes.

Pip is in turmoil as he feels guilt and shame, which is mingled with pride and snobbery.

He has a habit of demeaning those closest to him, whether it is Joe or Herbert. He has a knack of waiting just long enough not to have to be honorable, and just when he has good thoughts; these are lost again e.g. when he finds an excuse not to visit Joe when he goes back home to see Miss Havisham.

Pip seems unable to shake off his connections with convicts. Yet again, the episode in the churchyard with Magwitch resurrects itself when he shares the coach with the two convicts. Try as he might to be upper class, he just cannot escape his lower class roots, which have a tight grip on him.

Power and Money (Chapters 29 to 39)

Summary

Pip is becoming delusional and he thinks that Miss Havisham will have him marry Estella and adopt him. Orlick is now working as Miss Havisham's guard and this unnerves Pip, especially when he points out the loaded gun over the chimney.

Estella is becoming more and more beautiful and Pip is slowly being lost under the spell she weaves. She warns him not to love her and stresses that she is sincere in this request.

Miss Havisham relishes the situation anticipating her final act of revenge. She tells Pip before he leaves that Estella will be coming to London and he will be notified so that he can be her escort.

Jagers is also visiting and they breakfast together at the local inn. Pip expresses his concern about Orlick's present at Satis House and Jagers arranges for him to be fired.

On his way to the coach, Pip encounters the tailor's assistant who mocks Pip. When he returns to London he writes an angry letter to Trabb, the tailor, for employing such a poor assistant.

Pip feels guilty about not visiting Joe and decides to send him a barrel of oysters.

Herbert again tries to talk Pip out of pursuing Estella and although Pip knows that Estella is wrong for him, she spellbinds him. He also tells Pip that he has become engaged to Clara, but they cannot get married because he has no money. He has kept this secret from his mother.

Pip is becoming anxious about his own position. He does not know how much money he will receive, and he has no training for work if the source of money was to cease.

Pip is advised of Estella's arrival in London and he waits at the coach-house for her. She will not arrive for another five hours, but then he meets Wemmick who invites Pip to accompany him to Newgate Prison to fill in the time before Estella's arrival.

Pip realizes that Wemmick brings a touch of humanity when dealing with Jaggers' clients. One in particular, called the Colonel is due to be hanged, despite Jaggers' best efforts and he is unable to give Wemmick a ring in token of the assistance given to him at the trial. All he has is two pigeons, and Wemmick accepts these as another form of portable property.

Pip returns to meet Estella impressed by the way the prison guards hold Wemmick and Jaggers in esteem, but feeling guilty that he is tainted by crime yet again in the presence of his angel Estella.

Estella orders Pip to do this and that, having organized their time together. She insists on paying for herself wherever they go, wishing not to owe anything to anyone. She reveals that she had an unhappy childhood as the Havisham parasitical relatives made her life a misery through jealousy.

Pip and Herbert find their debts escalating and Pip realizes that he is pulling Herbert down to his level and that his dreams are fading. They have a servant called the Avenger, a young boy who according to Pip does little but eat their food. On one particular day, the boy offers Pip a roll for his breakfast and he responds by assaulting the servant, lifting him off his feet and shaking him.

Pip receives a note from Trabb the tailor that Mrs. Joe has died and his presence is requested for the interment. After the funeral, Pip notices that Joe is careful at dinner to use his cutlery correctly. He is delighted when Pip asks if he can stay in his old room, which gives Pip a degree of self-satisfaction. Pip tries to criticize Biddy as to why she had not written to him about what had happened. She stands her ground calling him Mr. Pip and Pip realizes that he is no match for her. She advises Pip that Orlick has been stalking them. He is now working at the nearby quarry. Pip resolves to visit Joe more often, but Biddy has her doubts.

Back in London, Jaggers asks Pip to come to his office and gives him £500 as a birthday present from his benefactor. He has now come of age. He is to take responsibility for his own financial affairs and will receive £125 per quarter until his benefactor makes himself known. Jaggers announces that his connection with this matter is now over, but he comes to Pip's apartment to celebrate his birthday. Jaggers advises Pip to spend his money wisely.

Pip then has the idea to secretly set Herbert up in business and he goes to see Wemmick for some advice. Wemmick's lady friend, Miss Skiffins, is there. Wemmick is in favor of Pip's idea to help Herbert and agrees to contact Miss Skiffins' brother who is an accountant. The details are arranged quickly and Herbert is unaware of the intrigue. Herbert is to join with a merchant named Clarriker.

Estella continues her warnings to Pip that he must not care for her. They make regular visits to Satis House, which are traumatic for Pip due to Miss Havisham's lust for revenge and Estella's indifference to him. On one visit, the two women engage in a vicious argument. Estella is weary of Miss Havisham's clinging attitude to her. She accuses Estella of being unloving and Estella points out that she will always be grateful and obedient, but it is impossible for her to love anyone or anything because she has not been taught how to love. Miss Havisham's plan has clearly gone awry.

For the first time Pip notices fear in the eyes of Miss Havisham.

Some time later back in London, he learns that Estella is courting Drummle. Pip is becoming more and more restless and uncertain about his future and wealth.

Herbert has now joined with Clarriker and their business is doing well.

One bitterly cold night, a stranger arrives at Pip's home; Pip is afraid of the stranger, but then recognizes that it is his convict from years ago, Magwitch. The convict is pleased to see how well Pip has grown and delighted to see that he is such a gentleman. After a few hints from Magwitch, Pip realizes that he is the mysterious benefactor and it is his way of rewarding Pip for the help given when he was on the run.

Pip is devastated, realizing that Estella can never be his, that Miss Havisham is not his benefactor and he has betrayed Joe for money from a convict. He also realizes that as Magwitch is a lifer, if he is caught in England he will be hanged.

Interpretation

Herbert is keeping his engagement to Clara a secret from his mother and the fact that he is at least obtaining some stability in his personal life makes Pip more insecure.

He is concerned about losing his money, as this is the key to Estella. He is obsessed with Estella and nothing Herbert can say will dissuade him from his purpose.

To the reader it is clear that Pip's feelings for Estella are not love, but some sort of addiction. There is no question that Estella is a beauty and even Jaggers notices this. When Estella is around, Pip has no identity of his own. He has no aims in life other than to please his benefactor Miss Havisham, and love Estella. The result of this is that he has to deny his roots and try and blot Joe out of his life.

Pip's recent actions reinforce the fact that he is a coward. To satisfy his feelings of guilt, he sends Joe a barrel of oysters. He does not like the fact that Orlick is working at Satis House, so again from a long distance he arranges for him to be fired, Jaggers doing the dirty work. Again he complains about Trabb's assistant and deals with this problem by letter. Pip cannot face the people he hurts or come to terms with the actions he has taken.

Estella does show some feelings for Pip by consistently warning him not to love her. She is at least being honest with him.

The previous theme concerning Wemmick's portable property comes to light again when he and Pip visit Newgate Prison. There one of Jaggers' clients, the Colonel is unable to buy a ring for Wemmick, but gives the clerk two pigeons. Again Pip is concerned at the stigma around him regarding prisons and convicts and he wishes that his guardian had some other occupation. He feels contaminated in the presence of Estella, which is a symptom of his irrational behavior when she is around.

Pip spends much of his time dreaming of being with Estella, but when he is, he is in turmoil.

Pip shows some alarming behavior when dealing with his servant, the avenger. The treatment he received from Mrs. Joe, he now dishes out to the servant boy, taking out his frustration on him. A normal person would have simply fired the servant, but Pip seems to delight in having the boy around in order to dish out abuse to him.

Dickens also gives the reader an insight into the appalling prison conditions at Newgate.

The author continues to add tags to the characters for Pumblechook it is now 'the founder of Pip's fortunes', and for Joe it is his phrase 'Pip, old chap'.

The recurring symbol of evil is ever in the background in the form of Orlick. It is evident that there is something sinister is going to happen and Orlick has something to do with it.

The two main symbols in these chapters are power and money.

Pip is seen to exercise the power he now has because of his social position and so far he has wielded this power from a distance, which also includes the secret concerning Herbert's future in the business world.

Dickens is clear to illustrate that money can be used to good and evil purposes, and our main character is not all bad, in that he has realized that Herbert's dreams cannot be fulfilled without the use of his money, for he has contributed to Herbert's indebtedness.

Pip returns home for his sister's funeral and some of the old rapport he had with Joe is evident. Joe is determined not to embarrass Pip by paying attention to his table manners.

Estella is aware of the use of power. She does not wish to be in the debt of anyone, in particular Pip, and she always pays her way. She controls Pip and all around her.

Pip believes he is in control of his own situation to a limited extent, but when his true benefactor is revealed he suddenly becomes powerless. It is Magwitch who now controls his future and he feels very vulnerable because he has no means of making his own living. His blind pursuit of Estella and money has meant that he has jeopardized his relationship with Joe. The realization of this devastates Pip.

The monster that Miss Havisham has created to wreak havoc against all mankind has turned round and hurt her, something she never intended to happen. Estella reveals that she is incapable of loving anyone, including Miss Havisham, who she compliments on her training. Estella shows kindness to Pip by being totally honest with him, that he should not love her, as she is incapable of loving him in return. She is dutiful and grateful to Miss Havisham, but she cannot love her, and Miss Havisham is now afraid of her own creation. Pip does not realize this yet, but he will not be used the way the other men in Estella's life will be used.

Shadows in the Dark **(Chapters 40 to 45)**

Summary

Pip notices someone lurking at the bottom of his apartment stairs. Clearly the convict has been followed.

The convict reveals his name to Pip as Abel Magwitch, but he is using the name Provis whilst in England, and he suggests that he is introduced as Pip's uncle. It had been Magwitch's intention to

flaunt Pip as the gentleman he has made, but Pip and Herbert decide this would not be a good idea, as it would lead to his discovery and imprisonment. Pip goes to seek advice from Jaggers who is very careful that Pip does not mention Magwitch, as this would be breaking the law.

Jaggers confirms that Miss Havisham was not Pip's benefactor.

Jaggers indicates that he regards Provis to be Magwitch's agent in England who is still in New South Wales, Australia.

Pip secures lodgings for Magwitch and new clothes for him, but whatever he wears he still looks like a convict. Magwitch swears Herbert to secrecy and he is quite fearful of the convict. When Magwitch is secured in his lodgings, Pip and Herbert discuss what is to be done. Pip can no longer accept the man's money and he must be smuggled out of England as soon as possible.

Apparently Magwitch had become involved with two men called Arthur and Compeyson, the latter had swindled a rich woman out of some money. Compeyson and Magwitch ended up on the same prison ship, but Compeyson was treated well as he was a gentleman, but Magwitch received a life sentence and was exported to Australia. Herbert reveals that Miss Havisham's brother was named Arthur and it was Compeyson who left her at the altar.

Pip goes to visit Estella and Miss Havisham and on his way meets Drummle at the Blue Boar. He is boasting about his relationship with Estella, which angers Pip. At Satis House, Pip gets straight to the point; remonstrating with Miss Havisham regarding leading him to believe that she was the source of his expectations. She did this in order to anger her parasitical relatives and responds by telling him that he made his own trap. Pip defends Herbert and Matthew Pocket saying that they had been nothing but honorable to him, which is in stark contrast to the rest of her relatives. He asks Miss Havisham to provide the rest of the payment for Herbert's business and to keep this a secret. Estella tells Pip she is going to marry Drummle and Pip pleads with her to marry anybody, but him, as he is not worthy of her. Estella is unaffected and intends to continue with her plan. Miss Havisham is shocked by the turn of events and she regrets the way she has brought up Estella.

Pip returns to London and he receives a note from Wemmick telling him not to go home.

The next day he heads for Wemmick's house that tells him that he is being watched. A certain person has been moved to the house where Herbert's fiancée boards. Pip is advised to keep a low profile in the city and to get this person out of town. He is also advised to get a hold of as much portable property as he can. Wemmick further confirms that Compeyson is living in London.

Interpretation

Jaggers is at pains to avoid mentioning the name of Magwitch so as to stay within the law. He stresses that he is sure Magwitch is still in Australia. It is clear that Magwitch has a plan to show off the hard work he has done in Australia in the form of Pip being a gentleman produced from his money. His motives are partly good and partly bad. He is grateful for Pip's help and has provided him with a life of leisure, but he also wants to have some revenge against society that has wronged him.

Pip has been dependent on Magwitch's money. The identity of the benefactor should not have mattered, but Pip's reaction is one of pure snobbery. He cannot bring himself to accept the convict's gift, but although this decision is based on a bad reason, it is nevertheless a good one, because Pip will finally have to fend for himself.

The meeting of Pip and Drummle at the Blue Boar gives the reader no doubt that Drummle is a brute, in particular the harsh treatment he gives to his horse. Drummle also is connected with the other main evil character in the tale, Orlick, who lights Drummle's cigar outside the inn. Until now, Pip has been protected against the evil elements running through the novel, but now this force, which is increasing as the tale develops, surrounds him.

Wemmick becomes a very important character at this stage of the story. His knowledge of the criminal world will help Pip and Herbert's plan to smuggle Magwitch out of England. He clearly is watching Pip's back and leaves important notes for him when he returns to London advising him that they are being watched. Again the importance of portable property is emphasized when Wemmick tells Pip to acquire as much as he can. Up until now Wemmick has managed to keep his personal and business lives separate, but they are now merging together.

There is a clear change in Miss Havisham's behavior. She has at last realized the harm she has caused to Estella and Pip and regrets her actions. She observes Pip's passionate pleas to Estella to marry someone worthy of her because he wants her to be happy. This fills Miss Havisham with pity and remorse. There is also a change in Pip for he is direct in his dealings with both Miss Havisham and Estella. He has turned away from being the passive victim of their plans. The young boy who played cards with Estella and was mocked now requests Miss Havisham to continue the support for Herbert in his business venture, and to keep it a secret. Estella has taken time in choosing the husband for her. It is someone that she knows she can offer nothing to and she advises Pip that she will not be a gift to Drummle. It is not clear how the marriage will go, whether she will have power over Drummle or vice versa, but the outcome will surely be that one of them will be hurt.

Mystery solved
(Chapters 46 to 51)

Summary

Pip goes to see Magwitch where he meets Clara, Herbert's fiancée and her father, who is close to death. Magwitch is now using the name Campbell and occupies two rooms at the top of the house. For some reason, Pip views Magwitch as a more amiable man and is warming to the convict.

When the time is right, Pip and Magwitch will head for France and the best way to do this is to meet with a boat in the river, so it is agreed that they get into the routine of rowing on the river, so that they will not draw attention to themselves. In this way they can board a ship without involving anyone else. Wemmick will advise them of the best time to leave, but after a few weeks there is still no word from him.

Pip is starting to struggle for money and he is forced to sell his jewelry in order to pay the bills.

To break the monotony, he decides to go to the theatre to see one of Mr. Wopsle's theatrical failures. At the theatre he realizes that he is being watched, and the man is Compeyson. Pip recognizes him from the fighting on the marshes years earlier. Pip manages to send a note to Wemmick saying that he is being followed by Compeyson.

A week later Jagers invites Pip to dine with him and Wemmick. Jagers says he has received a note from Miss Havisham requesting to see Pip and informing him that Drummle has married Estella. Jagers makes the remark that Drummle is the type of person who either beats or cringes and wonders who will win in the battle between Estella and Drummle.

Jagers' maid, Molly, enters the room and Pip notices her fingers moving strangely, and it reminds him of Estella's fingers when she was knitting. He suddenly realizes that Molly is Estella's mother.

Wemmick and Pip depart and Wemmick explains that Molly was on trial for murdering an older, stronger woman who was having an affair with Molly's husband. Jagers was her lawyer and this was one of the cases that made him famous and successful. He cleverly dressed Molly to look weaker than she was and made no comment about her strong hands. He also proved that bramble bushes made the scratches on her hands. It was also suggested that Molly had murdered her child to get even with her husband, but Jagers was able to sway the jury away from that opinion. Molly was found to be innocent and has worked for Jagers ever since.

Pip visits Miss Havisham the next day and she regrets that she has caused so much pain and sorrow. Pip feels sorry for her, as she is now quite alone in her large house. She agrees to help Herbert and gives Pip a note for Jagers authorizing Pip to receive money for Herbert. She also offers to help Pip financially, but he refuses. Miss Havisham now needs forgiveness and she drops down on her knees crying out 'what have I done?' Pip had made it clear to her the evil that she had committed. She had initially intended to adopt Estella in order to save her from the hurts of the world. She now realizes that she stole the girl's heart and put ice in its place. Pip asks Miss Havisham if she knows who Estella's mother was, but she only knows that Jagers brought the girl to her. Before he leaves Pip decides to walk around the grounds of the house once more. He then goes back upstairs to check on Miss Havisham and discovers that her dress has caught fire. He saves her, but she is seriously hurt and in doing so, he has badly burned his arms.

Pip eventually returns to London and Herbert cares for his wounds.

Herbert has been in conversation with Magwitch who related that he had been married, but his wife had killed another woman and their child in a jealous rage. Pip realizes that Magwitch must be Estella's father. Magwitch had gone into hiding to avoid testifying at his wife's trial. Compeyson had blackmailed Magwitch with this information, thus causing him to go deeper into crime.

Pip goes to Jagers' office and is received with much kindness to his surprise. Herbert's money for his business is resolved without his knowledge and Pip tells Jagers that he knows who Estella's parents are. Jagers wishes to change the subject, but Pip demands that Jagers and Wemmick tell him the truth. The best Pip can obtain from Jagers is a 'theoretical' story. Jagers states that he was charged by a rich woman to find a girl child for her to adopt. At the very same time, he was involved in a court case where a child was thought to have been murdered. Certainly, the father thought this was the situation. Jagers decided to keep this situation secret for he knew that children suffered sorely under the legal system. He had the opportunity to save a child from this, and he took it. Jagers then says that nobody would benefit from knowing about this theoretical story and Pip agrees to keep it a secret.

Interpretation

Dickens felt that he was abandoned as a child and this theme is seen throughout all of his works. Pip was an orphan, Estella, Clara and Herbert have living parents, but they are either unknown or useless to them.

The evil elements start to close in around Pip, this time in the form of Compeyson who is following him. Molly's story provides another piece of the jigsaw, when Pip realizes that she is Estella's mother.

Miss Havisham is now suffering from her life of hatred and revenge. She wishes to make amends and willingly offers to help Herbert and Pip. Pip shows his continued change by refusing to accept any aid

from Miss Havisham. Whatever is in store for him in the future will be of his own making. This is a clear indication that his character has now matured.

Pip is now in charge of his own life, standing up to Miss Havisham and speaking his mind. He has now lost his infatuation for Estella and shows that he is unselfish by pleading with her to marry someone she can love, not Drummle.

Again he demands that Jaggers and Wemmick tell him the full story concerning Estella's background and a final demonstration of Pip's growth is that he now does not look down his nose at Magwitch, but can sympathize with him.

Escape and conclusion **(Chapters 52 to 59)**

Summary

Pip concludes with Clarriker the transaction for Herbert's business. Herbert will be leaving for Egypt soon and Pip now sees his life as a wealthy man drawing to a close.

Wemmick now gives the go-ahead for Magwitch to leave England, but because of Pip's injuries, he is unable to row, so they recruit Startop who is a loyal friend.

When Pip returns to his home, he finds a note asking him to come to the sluice house on the marshes in order to receive some important information about his Uncle Provis. Pip decides to go in order to ensure Magwitch's safety, and on the way he checks in on Miss Havisham to see how she is faring. At the inn during dinner, he hears the innkeeper talking about Pumblechook and how he has been boasting about making a young man become wealthy. Pip is again filled with guilt, having spurned the true friendship offered to him by Joe and Biddy. He then makes his way to the sluice house and just as he approaches, a drunken Orlick attacks him from behind. Orlick blames Pip for all his misfortunes, the loss of his job, and the loss of Biddy. Orlick intends to kill Pip and hide his body in the limekiln, but he wants to toy with him before carrying out the deed. He confesses to attacking Mrs. Joe, and to hiding on the stairs at Pip's flat. He is working for Compeyson, who has told him all about Magwitch. Pip is full of remorse, but his main thought is that he will not have the chance to apologize to Joe and Biddy. Just then Pip is rescued by Herbert, Startop and the Trabb's' boy who had guided them to the sluice house. Orlick escapes.

They rush back to London to prepare for the escape, which will take place on the next day. They make their way downriver to meet with a steamer, but Customs agents and Compeyson, who is there to identify Magwitch, intercept them. The two convicts struggle and one of the boats capsizes. They fall into the water with the steamer heading towards them. Compeyson is drowned. Magwitch is arrested and Pip stays with him while Herbert and Startop return to London.

Pip now only feels compassion for Magwitch, any repugnance that he had, is now gone.

With Magwitch's arrest, all of his money will be forfeit to the crown, but Pip keeps this a secret from Magwitch.

Jaggers is annoyed that Magwitch's money has slipped through Pip's fingers, but he will endeavor to salvage something.

Herbert receives word that he must leave for Egypt immediately and although Pip is happy for his friend, he is apprehensive about his own future. Herbert says that there is always a job for him with his firm, if he wishes one.

Wemmick is also upset at the loss of so much portable property. Pip tells him that he is more concerned for the owner of that property. Wemmick tells Pip that he is taking a holiday on Monday and asks Pip if he would visit. Pip agrees. When Pip arrives, he discovers Wemmick carrying a fishing pole and they go for a walk. They end up at a church where everything is made ready for a wedding and then Wemmick produces a ring and asks Pip to be his best man in his marriage to Miss Skiffins.

Pip spends the remainder of his time with Magwitch, whose health continues to decline. His trial is quick, and he is condemned to die, and Magwitch thanks Pip for his loyalty. Before the sentence of the court can be carried out, Magwitch dies, but just before this happens, Pip whispers to him that his daughter, who he thought was dead, is alive, has become a lady and that Pip loves her. Magwitch smiles and dies in peace.

Pip then collapses. He has been ill for some time and has debt collectors pursuing him. He eventually comes to, to find Joe caring for him. Biddy had told Joe to go to Pip's bedside to ensure he made a full recovery. Joe can now write, Biddy has taught him well.

Pip also learns that Miss Havisham has since died. She has left £4,000 to Matthew Pocket due to Pip's recommendation.

Orlick has also been arrested after trying to break into Pumblechook's house.

Pip tries to tell Joe about Magwitch, but Joe cuts him off, saying that there is nothing to discuss regarding the convict.

Joe clears Pip's debts and he returns home as Pip has recovered.

A few days later, Pip decides to return home to be with Bidley and Joe. He has a mind to ask Bidley to marry him. When he arrives at the forge, he finds it empty and then discovers that Joe and Bidley have just been married. Pip is relieved that he never told Joe of his intention to ask Bidley to marry him. Bidley and Joe are excited to see him and Pip tells them that he intends to join Herbert in Egypt.

In Egypt, Pip lives with Herbert and Clara and eventually pays off his debt to Joe leading a frugal life. Pip becomes a partner in the business, at which point Clarriker tells Herbert how Pip secretly got him started in the business.

Eleven years pass, and Pip returns to find Joe and Bidley happy with a daughter, and a son who they have called Pip.

Herbert has been urging Pip to marry, and Bidley and Joe do the same, but he says he is a content bachelor and set in his ways.

He decides to walk to Satis House and there he comes across the solitary figure of Estella. She tells Pip that she has thought of him much lately and that she hopes they can still be friends. Pip tells her they are friends and observes to him that he saw 'the shadow of no parting from her'.

Interpretation

The character of Pip has grown in maturity and unselfishness in these chapters. He has changed from a snobbish, cowardly, self-centered individual into a caring and well-balanced man.

His dangerous trip to the marshes was motivated purely out of concern for Magwitch's safety. He sees well in the actions of Magwitch, which have highlighted his own failings. During the escape, Magwitch remains calm. He is used to flirting with danger and faces dangerous situations straight on. Although Magwitch's life was a personal failure, the product of his efforts, Pip, gives him satisfaction, and in his dying minutes to learn that he has a daughter who is a lady, means he can rest in peace. Magwitch had made the observation that Pip was more comfortable with him as a condemned man than when he was free. It is clear that Pip's concern is genuine and he has no reservations about being close to criminal elements. Magwitch treasures Pip's loyalty as he dies.

Pip breaks down at this point due to poor health and financial pressures. It is, of course, Joe who comes to his bedside prompted by Bidley in order to nurse him back to health. The two are able to lie to rest some ghosts that have haunted their relationship. Joe feels guilt at not protecting Pip against the harsh treatment from Mrs. Joe and Pip is guilty over the lies he told in concealing the convict on the marshes. Joe also advises Pip that Miss Havisham was generous to Matthew Pocket due to Pip's good words for him.

As for the rest of Miss Havisham's parasitical relatives, Dickens again brings in some humor regarding Miss Havisham's bequests, which were enough money to Sarah Pocket for her to purchase pills for being bilious; and enough money to Camilla to buy lights for when she sits up at night worrying about everybody else.

Dickens also brings in humor regarding Orlick's burglary on Pumblechook's house, where he took his till, took his cash box, drank his wine, ate his food, and then stuffed Pumblechook's mouth full of flowering annuals, this being the only time in the book when Pumblechook was silent.

Pip started the story as the hero and ends up the same, his character having matured through all the trials and tribulations he has faced. Instead of being upset that Joe beat him to marrying Bidley, he feels relief that he had not mentioned his intentions in this regard. He also looks at the other characters in a new perspective, considering now that Herbert's talents have contributed to his success, and that his initial comment that he would not fulfill his dream has been proved to be wrong.

When Herbert is told about Pip setting him up in business, all the secrets have now been revealed, except for Estella's parentage, which Pip will keep secret for the rest of his days.

Originally the story was to have ended with Estella marrying a doctor and Pip and Estella going their separate ways. This mirrors Dickens own life when he met his first love many years later and she was happily married. However, Dickens was persuaded to change the ending by a friend, giving the reader a chance for a happy ending. Uncharacteristically for Dickens, he does leave the ending somewhat ambiguous. Does the quote 'shadow of no parting' mean that they do stay together?

Questions for study with ideas for answers.

Q: Dickens draws from personal experiences when writing his novels. What examples are evident in *Great Expectations*?

Ideas: In poor families children were sent out at an early age to work in order to help support the family. This meant that children were poorly educated and had no prospects of progress when they reached adulthood. Dickens worked in a blacking warehouse, pasting labels to bottles in order to support his mother and seven brothers and sisters while their father was in debtors' prison.

Dickens/Pip realized that the only escape from a life of poverty was to obtain an education. Both were determined to better themselves for the only way they could have control over their own lives was to achieve a good position in the social structure.

Dickens was a lonely child, and many of the characters in his novels are either orphans, do not know their own parents, or their parents are dependant on the child.

Q: *Great Expectations* is essentially a dark tale with even the main character developing from a heroic boy to an obnoxious young gentleman, a snob. How does Dickens bring light into his story?

Ideas: The plot is dotted with colorful eccentric characters and Dickens humorously describes the description of their behavior and appearance. He uses amusing character tags to highlight this.

There are also classic scenes that bring light relief to the plot e.g. Herbert's instruction of Pip regarding his table manners; Wemmick's wedding day, which Pip thinks is going to be a fishing trip (Wemmick has certainly made a good catch); and the bequests left by Miss Havisham to her various relatives.

Q: *Great Expectations* was originally written in serial form. What method did Dickens use to enable the reader to easily identify with the characters?

Ideas: The vast majority of characters have odd names, which aid the memory. To supplement this, Dickens also used character tags, which enabled the reader to obtain a clear image of the player e.g. '*the soap-scented man*' refers to Jaggers; '*the pale, young gentleman*' refers to Herbert Pocket; '*the small bundle of shivers*' refers to Pip as a boy; '*letterbox mouth*' refers to Wemmick; '*being brought up by hand*' was Mrs. Joe's constant reminder to Pip; '*old chap*' the way Joe refers to Pip; '*the walnut shell countenance*' of Miss Sarah Pocket; and '*hair rumpling*' by Pumblechook.

Q: *Great Expectations* is the title of this novel. How does this relate to the story itself?

Ideas: Pip makes the assumption that his windfall has come from Miss Havisham, and therefore, his expectations include getting an education, becoming a gentleman, receiving an income, living in the city, and most importantly, marrying Estella. He, therefore, concludes that he is being groomed to be Estella's husband. Miss Havisham goes along with this situation on two counts, firstly she wishes to antagonize her parasitical relatives, and secondly, to draw Pip into the web of deceit and then crush all his hopes for Estella.

Pip learns quickly how to be a gentleman and his plans for marrying Estella and being an established member of the ruling class seem on course, until the true identity of his benefactor is revealed. Magwitch wishes to flaunt his protégé in public, thus obtaining some sort of revenge on the society that has wronged him.

Pip considers that his position is tainted, even though the money he has spent was honestly acquired by Magwitch, thus ruining his expectations.