

Great Expectations Study Guide

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

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Plot Summary

The novel follows the life of Pip, an orphan who goes from being the unwanted ward of his forlorn sister to becoming a young man of means. However, when Pip learns who his benefactor is, he finds himself traveling down a road he never expected to take. Great Expectations is a story of a young man who wants more than what he is only to discover that what he had was not so bad.

Pip is playing in the cemetery in the marshes near his home. Pip is studying the graves of his parents when a convict surprises him. The convict turns Pip upside down, looking for food. After finding a piece of bread and eating it, the convict sends Pip home with orders to return in the morning with more food and a file.

Pip goes home and sets aside his own dinner for the convict. The next morning, Pip steals several food items his sister has set aside for Christmas dinner before going back to the cemetery to find the convict. Pip finds another convict before finding his own waiting for him. Pip gives him the food and file and tells him what he has seen.

Later, at Christmas dinner, Pip is frightened of what will happen when his sister learns he has taken a pie she had purposely put away for her special guests. Just as his sister discovers the missing pie, a group of soldiers come to the door looking for a blacksmith to fix a pair of leg irons. After fixing the leg irons, Pip's brother-in-law, Joe, agrees to go with the soldiers to search for the missing convicts. Pip goes along. When they find the convicts, Pip manages to signal to the convict that he is not responsible for his being found. Later, the convict tells the soldiers and Joe that he broke into the blacksmith's house and stole some food, saving Pip from any punishment his sister might wish to exact on him.

Sometime later, Pip is told by his sister and Mr. Pumblechook, Joe's uncle, that Miss Havisham wants Pip to come play at her house. Miss Havisham is a rich, eccentric woman who lives in Rochester, the market-town near Pip's village. Mrs. Joe sees this as a chance for Pip to bring wealth and prestige on her, so she forces him to comply. Pip is taken to the gate of Miss Havisham's house for the first time by Mr. Pumblechook, who is quickly turned away at the gate by Estella, Miss Havisham's adopted daughter. Pip is taken into the house and introduced to Miss Havisham, an older woman who wears her old wedding gown and has sealed the rooms of her house to remain the way they were the day her fiancée left her at the altar.

Pip plays cards with Estella but is not ignorant to the way she looks down on him and the words of Miss Havisham, encouraging him to fall in love with Estella so that she might shatter his heart the way her own fiancée did hers. Pip suddenly becomes aware of his poverty and his harshness, becoming embarrassed and determined to better himself. For the next year and a half, Pip continues to visit Miss Havisham, always aware of Estella's poor opinion of him. Finally Miss Havisham calls Joe to her and pays him what Pip has earned in his visits to her and sends him off to be apprenticed to Joe's blacksmith shop.



For the next few years Pip works in Joe's blacksmith shop, but he is terribly unhappy. At night Pip studies books he has come across, hoping to better himself. One night, Joe and Pip come home to discover that Pip's abusive sister has been attacked, suffering a head injury that leaves her mentally altered. Joe arranges for a young girl, Biddy, to come and care for his wife in her infirmity. Biddy and Pip become good friends and work together in trying to further their education. Then one night a lawyer comes to the village and tells Pip that an anonymous benefactor has decided to bestow property on Pip and turn him into a gentleman.

Pip goes to London to study with a tutor, who happens to be a relation of Miss Havisham. In London, Pip becomes good friends with a young man he once beat up in a boxing match at Miss Havisham's, a man by the name of Herbert Pocket. Together, Pip and Herbert create a great amount of debt as they live the life of bachelors. At the same time, Pip befriends the clerk at his guardian's office and through him creates a partnership in a shipping company for Herbert.

Estella comes back into Pip's life and Pip finds himself under the assumption that Miss Havisham is Pip's benefactor, having hope of making a match between him and Estella. However, when Estella falls in love with a fellow student who Pip deeply dislikes, he is heartbroken. Later, Pip learns that Miss Havisham was not his benefactor. Pip's true benefactor is Abel Magwitch, the convict he once gave food and a file to. At first Pip is horrified by this revelation and wants nothing better than to escape from Magwitch. However, Pip soon learns that Magwitch is being hunted by his partner in crime and in danger of dying should he be found to have returned to England. Pip decides to help Magwitch. However, their attempt to escape the country fails and Magwitch is arrested, sentenced to death, and dies of injuries received in his escape attempt, penniless.

Pip finds himself without a benefactor and in great debt. Joe comes to his rescue, despite Pip's poor treatment of him over the past few years. Pip decides to return to Joe and marry Biddy but discovers that Joe has asked Biddy to be his wife. Pip goes overseas to be a clerk in Herbert's business. Pip works his way up to become a third partner in the business. After many years, Pip returns to Joe's to meet his children. While there, Pip finds Estella, newly single, and renews their acquaintance.



Chapter 1-4

Summary

Chapter 1. Pip is in the cemetery in the marshes near his village. Pip is reading the inscription on his father and mother's graves, as well as the graves of his five siblings, who died in infancy. As Pip sits there, a convict comes up behind him and searches him for food. Finding a piece of bread, the convict quickly eats it and then tells Pip that he wants more food. The convict tells Pip that he is with another convict, a younger man who would be most willing to come and kill Pip should he fail to return in the morning with more food and a file to remove their leg irons. Pip runs home, frightened.

Chapter 2. Pip returns home to learn his sister and guardian, Mrs. Joe, has been searching for him on the marshes with the Tickler, a stick she uses to beat both Pip and Joe when they have done wrong. Pip is given a small piece of bread for his dinner by Mrs. Joe. Pip sits in the corner of the fireplace with Joe, but he does not eat his bread. Instead, Pip hides the bread away when he thinks no one is looking. Joe, concerned, berates Pip for bolting down his food. Mrs. Joe hears this and forces Pip to drink tar water, a nasty tasting medicine meant to keep him from getting sick. Later, as they sit together in the kitchen, they hear the guns of the Hulks, the prison ships just outside the village. Joe explains that another convict has escaped. Mrs. Joe tells Pip that he should get used to those sounds because he is sure to be a convict himself one day.

Chapter 3. Pip sneaks into the kitchen in the morning and steals some food from the pantry, including a pie his aunt has hidden away for Christmas dinner and some brandy from a glass jug. Pip goes into the marshes and thinks he sees his convict, but the man turns and Pip can see he is a different man. Pip thinks this may be the young man who his convict threatened would come find him and kill him. Pip keeps running and finally finds his convict at the battery. Pip gives him the food and the file he has taken from Joe's blacksmith forge. Pip tells the man he saw the other convict. This catches the convict's interest and he asks Pip to tell him exactly where he has seen this other man. After telling the convict all he knows, Pip leaves him as he bends to file away his leg irons.

Chapter 4. Pip is frightened that his sister has already learned of the theft in her kitchen, but when he returns home, she seems not to have noticed. Since it is Christmas, Joe, Mrs. Joe, and Pip all go to church. When they return home, they open up the rarely used parlor for dinner with Mrs. Joe's friends. These include Mr. and Mrs. Hubble, the wheelwright, and his wife, Mr. Wopsle, the clerk at the church, and Mr. Pumblechook, Joe's corn seed businessman uncle from the nearby market-town. Pip is ridiculed and criticized throughout the dinner for not appreciating the hard work of his sister and her generosity in taking him in after the deaths of their parents. As this criticism continues, Pip finds himself distracted by the fear that his sister will soon learn of his thefts. This seems imminent when Mrs. Joe pours Mr. Pumblechook a glass of brandy, a drink Pip stole and replaced with tar-water. However, Mrs. Joe does not make any accusations.



Pip is positive that he will be found out when Mrs. Joe goes to get the pork pie he gave the convict. However, before she can accuse anyone of stealing the pie, a group of soldiers come to the door.

Analysis

These early chapters introduce the main character, Pip. Pip is a child of seven when the novel begins, playing in the cemetery and looking at the tombstones of his mother, father, and siblings. Pip is one of two children remaining in the family, having become the ward of his older sister upon the deaths of his parents. Pip's older sister is a selfish woman who feels that Pip is nothing but a burden to her. Pip's sister will often beat both Pip and her own husband, the blacksmith Joe Gargery. Joe and Pip, however, are great friends and have bonded to one another in their mutual unhappiness.

Mr. Pumblechook is also introduced in these early chapters. Mr. Pumblechook is an uncle of Joe's who has a business selling corn seeds in the market-town. This makes Mr. Pumblechook somewhat more respectable than the Gargerys and therefore someone Mrs. Joe goes out of her way to please because of the respect and material items he can provide to her. It is for Mr. Pumblechook that Mrs. Joe made the pork pie Pip stole and gave to his convict.

Pip meets an escaped convict in the cemetery. This man is desperate for food and a file to remove his leg irons, desperate enough to trust a child to help him. Pip helps this man because he is a child and he is sufficiently frightened enough to believe everything the man tells him. However, this act of kindness could cause Pip some great hardships in the immediate future, but will also set him up for some pleasant rewards later in the novel.

The reader will note at this point in the novel that the point of view is first person. The narrator is Pip as an older man who is looking back on his childhood in telling this story. The narrator often makes comments that express regrets about his own actions as well as commentary on other characters in the novel, such as Pip's often fond recollections of his brother-in-law, Joe Gargery.

Vocabulary

convict, vittles, tilted, powerfully, particular, difficulty, leg-irons, shuddering, tighter, threatening, ravenously, parish, expressed, orphaned, tombstone, chattered, shivered, nettles, indebted, intersected, dikes, scattered, unreasonably, photographs, authority, Christian, likeness, inscription, conclusion



Chapter 5-7

Summary

Chapter 5. The soldiers ask Joe to fix a pair of handcuffs they will need when they find the escaped convicts. Joe agrees, and while he works on them the rest of the party talks about the convicts, distracting Mrs. Joe from the missing pie. When the handcuffs are fixed, Joe and Mr. Wopsle decide to go along with the soldier to help them make their way through the marshes. Pip goes along as well. They walk a long distance and Joe has to lift Pip onto his shoulders because Pip becomes tired. Finally they find the convicts engaged in a fist fight. One convict claims the other attempted to kill him. The other, Pip's convict, denies the charge. When the soldiers have subdued the convicts, Pip makes a sign to his convict to show that he had nothing to do with the soldiers finding him. Pip thinks the man does not recognize him, but later, as they wait for a boat to take the convict back to the Hulks, Pip's convict tells the soldiers that he broke into the blacksmith's house to steal food.

Chapter 6. Pip is deeply relieved that the convict's story, as told to Mrs. Joe by Joe, frees him from suspicion in the hunt for the missing pie.

Chapter 7. During these early years of Pip's life he was attending a school of sorts in the home of Mr. Wopsle, taught by his elderly aunt. Unfortunately, the elderly aunt is infirm and often sleeps through the class time. Therefore, what little Pip knows of his letters and writing he has learned from Biddy, an orphan like Pip who is somehow related to the Wopsles. Pip writes a letter to Joe one night and Joe is so impressed that he tells Pip he is destined to be someone special.

Pip asks Joe if he ever went to school and Joe explains that his father, also a blacksmith, was a cruel man who often beat him and his mother. Joe's mother would run away with Joe and put him in school, but somehow his father always found them. Joe's father did not believe a boy should be educated, so eventually Joe gave up thoughts of school and focused on becoming a blacksmith like his father. Joe then tells Pip how after his parents died and he met Pip and his sister in the small village, he was drawn to them because of Pip. Joe married Mrs. Joe to give Pip a good home, but now regrets that he cannot protect him better from Mrs. Joe's anger. Joe refuses to stand up to his wife, however, because he saw how his father's actions destroyed his mother, and he refuses to do that to another woman.

A short time later, Mrs. Joe returns home in the company of Mr. Pumblechook. They announce that Miss Havisham, an eccentric wealthy woman in the market-town, has requested that Pip come to her home to play for her. Pip is not interested, but Mrs. Joe refuses to even allow him an opinion. Mrs. Joe and Mr. Pumblechook spend the evening talking about what this could mean for Pip as far as money and a future. That same night Pip is cleaned up and taken into market-town with Mr. Pumblechook.



Analysis

The soldiers locate and return the escaped prisoners to the Hulks. What is important for the reader to note at this point in the story is that the two prisoners clearly know one another. In fact, they appear to have been convicted for the same crime and there is a great deal of animosity between them. However, the one convict, the one Pip helped, appears to have some sense of charity because he confesses to breaking into the blacksmith's house to steal food, getting Pip off the hook with his abusive sister. This good deed should be recalled by the reader as it will prove an important clue to this man's character later in the novel.

Pip shows an interest in becoming educated and bettering himself. Pip tells the reader that he already knows he is to be apprenticed to Joe when he is older to become a blacksmith, but Pip wants to learn to read and write. Pip wants to know about the world and what it might hold for him. This is important because Pip's desire to be better than what he is will prove to be a strong motivator later in the novel.

Joe tells Pip that his father was abusive, not unlike Mrs. Joe, and that his father's controlling ways took away his opportunities to better himself. From this, Joe learned how abuse can control and destroy a woman. For this reason, Joe refuses to stand up to Mrs. Joe even though she is a miserable woman who is often cruel not only to Pip, but to Joe himself. This shows the reader Joe's sense of guilt for not being able to protect Pip better, but also his goodness of heart in the fact that he married such a woman in order to offer some love and shelter to Pip. Joe is a good man and the reader can already see the depth of affection between him and Pip, not only in their relationship as it is described in these chapters, but also in how Pip as a grown man narrates his sense of guilt and affection for Joe.

Vocabulary

earthenware, mincemeat, pantry, riveted, confusion, riverside, marshes, oppressed, blacksmith, conscious, fugitive, investigation, connubial, missile, reproach, tempered, reputation, confidences, opposite, intelligence, dismal, churchyard, sailors, prospect, intermixed, concerning, battery



Chapter 8-11

Summary

Chapter 8. Pip spends the night at Mr. Pumblechook's house and has breakfast with him the following morning, although Pip's breakfast is much less opulent than Mr. Pumblechook's. After breakfast, Mr. Pumblechook takes Pip to Miss Havisham's and is unceremoniously dismissed by the young girl who opens the gate. The young girl walks Pip through the yard, past an abandoned brewery, and to a dark room just inside the main house. Pip is escorted through the dark house with only the light of a candle to guide them. Miss Havisham dismisses the girl and looks Pip over. She is sitting at a dressing table, wearing only one shoe and a wedding gown. Pip notices that the clocks are all stopped at the same time and the dressing table appears as though it has not been disturbed in many years.

Miss Havisham tells Pip she is bored with adults and she wants to watch a child play. However, Pip feels that he cannot play comfortably in her presence. Miss Havisham calls Estella, the girl who led Pip into the house, and instructs her to play cards with Pip. Pip finds himself embarrassed because he does not know the sophisticated card games Estella knows and calls jacks by the wrong names. When Estella walks Pip out into the yard he is so hurt by what she thinks of his crudeness that he cries. For a short time Pip walks around the grounds, as neglected as the house, then allows Estella to escort him out. She teases him for crying.

Chapter 9. Mr. Pumblechook and Mrs. Joe ask Pip a great many questions about Miss Havisham. Pip is still so hurt by Estella's teasing that he lies to them. Pip tells them great stories about a sedan chair and how Miss Havisham sits in it constantly. Later, however, Pip feels bad when Joe believes the lies too. Pip confesses to Joe that they are all lies. Joe tells Pip that lies will make a man common, so if Pip wants to be uncommon he should never tell lies again. Pip promises he will never lie again.

Chapter 10. The next time Pip goes to school at Mr. Wopsle's, he asks Biddy to teach him all she knows. Biddy keeps the records in Aunt Wopsle's small shop, so she uses these books to teach Pip to read and to do simple math. One night, after one of these lessons, Pip meets Joe in the local bar, the Three Jolly Bargemen. There is a man there who no one knows. However, this man seems to know Pip and Joe. Pip sees the man stir his drink with a file, the same file Pip gave to the convict to remove his leg irons. They speak for a few minutes and then the man gives Pip a shilling wrapped in paper. When they get home, Mrs. Joe discovers the paper folded around the shilling is two one-pound notes. Joe attempts to give them back to the man, but he is gone so he puts the money away on a shelf.

Chapter 11. Pip returns to Miss Havisham's as she instructed. Estella opens the gate for him once more and takes him to a different room. In this room there are several people, relatives of Miss Havisham. As Pip waits to be called, he listens to these people talk



about people he does not know. Estella comes for Pip and takes him to Miss Havisham. Pip tells her that he finds the house depressing and cannot imagine wanting to play in it. For this reason, Miss Havisham directs Pip to help her take exercise around a nearby room that contains a large banquet table with a large centerpiece of an indecipherable item. Miss Havisham tells him it is a wedding cake. Miss Havisham then tells Pip that one day she will die and be laid out on the table. After a while, the people waiting with Pip come upstairs. Miss Havisham speaks to them for a few minutes, becoming clearly agitated at their shallow show of concern for her health. Miss Havisham again remarks that she will one day be laid out on the banquet table and each of them will stand around her, including a man named Matthew Pocket, who is not present. When the people leave, Miss Havisham tells Pip it is her birthday and those were her relatives, come to grovel in hopes of getting something when she dies.

Miss Havisham sends Pip outside to have something to eat before he leaves. After eating, Pip wanders through the garden thinking of Estella. Pip approaches a small house in the back of the property and is surprised to see a young boy studying inside. The boy comes out and challenges Pip to a boxing match. Pip is shocked and unwilling to fight the young boy, but he does in an effort to protect himself. Pip knocks the boy down three times, finally causing an injury to his head that encourages the young boy to stop. When Estella comes to escort him out she is smiling and she allows Pip to kiss her cheek.

Analysis

Pip meets Miss Havisham for the first time in these chapters. It is an important relationship that is begun here, one that will continue throughout the novel. Miss Havisham is an older woman who was jilted on her wedding day and decided the world should stop on that day. Miss Havisham lives in a few rooms of her home that are still set up as they were the day of the wedding, including the wedding dress and the wedding cake. It is clear to the reader that Miss Havisham was deeply injured by the end of her relationship. It also becomes clear to Pip that Miss Havisham plans to get revenge on the world by causing her ward, Estella, to become jaded against men and love. To this end, Miss Havisham encourages Pip to fall in love with Estella, aware that any such love would never be requited and therefore would lead to his heartbreak.

Miss Havisham's bitterness is clear, especially when it comes to her relationships with her family members. Miss Havisham knows that all they want is her money; therefore, she treats them all with contempt. Miss Havisham is not as contemptuous with Estella, but her behavior toward Estella has caused Estella to become a cruel young girl. Upon their first meeting, Estella breaks Pip's heart and causes him to become aware of how crude and common he really is. This becomes Pip's motivation to become something more than himself, to become something Estella would want in her life. This is an important motive that will propel much of the rest of the plot.

Pip receives money from a stranger in the local bar, a curious event that leaves the reader as well as the characters wondering who this person was and what he wanted.



Pip knows the man is an agent of his convict, but he has no idea what the man wants with him. This appears to be an isolated event and Pip does not think much about it later. However, the reader would be smart to remember this incident. Later, Pip meets a young man at Miss Havisham's. This young man is well bred but does not fight very well. This young man seems inconsequential except in the fact that by beating him, Pip has earned a kiss from his beloved Estella. However, this young man will prove to be important to Pip later in the novel.

Vocabulary

ceremonious, rendering, satisfied, complimentary, expression, penitential, mortifying, quantity, acquit, gormandizing, gorging, brewery, behavior, dismal, education, propose, entertainment, anticipation, hospitality, treasonably, steadily, deceiving, treacherous, cravat, hedges, accepted, oppressed



Chapter 12-15

Summary

Chapter 12. The next time Pip goes to Miss Havisham's, he is afraid he will be punished for the fight with the young man, but no word is ever spoken. In fact, the young man appears to have gone away. For the next eight or ten months, Pip continues to go to Miss Havisham's every other day to help her with her exercise. It becomes something of a habit for them to walk through the rooms of her small world, singing one of Joe's blacksmith songs. Mrs. Joe and Pumblechook continue to ask Pip about Miss Havisham and her home. Pip tries to be honest, but he does not like talking about it and gives information up haltingly. Finally, one day Miss Havisham asks Pip to bring Joe to visit her, a request that makes Mrs. Joe fly into a rage.

Chapter 13. Pip takes Joe to see Miss Havisham and finds himself embarrassed by Joe's appearance and his unwillingness to speak directly to Miss Havisham. The meeting is centered on Pip's future. Miss Havisham gives Joe some money for Pip's time at her home and encourages Joe to make Pip his apprentice as soon as possible. Mrs. Joe, who is waiting for them at Mr. Pumblechook's, is thrilled with the money that they have received. They begin to celebrate, and as part of the celebration they go to the courthouse to have Pip's indentures signed, binding him to Joe as an apprentice. Everyone is happy about this except Pip, who is saddened to see his time with Miss Havisham, and Estella, come to an end and to face a future in a blacksmith's forge.

Chapter 14. Now that Pip is facing a future as a blacksmith, a life no better than Joe's common life, he is unhappy. Pip does not want to be common and he feels as if he has been sentenced to a life of obscurity.

Chapter 15. Pip's time at Miss Wopsle's has ended, but he continues his instructions on his own. Pip tries to teach Joe too; therefore, they often go for long walks in the marshes so they can study without Mrs. Joe's knowledge. However, many of these lessons end early because of Pip's frustration with Joe's slow progress. On one of these walks, Pip is thinking of Estella and asks Joe if he thinks he might be able to make a visit to them. After some discussion, Joe agrees to give Pip half a day off to make the visit. However, this does not sit well with Joe's journeyman, Orlick. Orlick thinks that if Pip has a half day off, he should too. This leads to an argument that brings Mrs. Joe into the forge. Mrs. Joe and Orlick have words, forcing Joe to hit Orlick to save his wife's dignity.

A short time later, Pip leaves to visit Miss Havisham. Pip is disappointed to learn that Estella has been sent to school abroad and is not present. Miss Havisham is amused by Pip's disappointment. Later, Pip runs into Mr. Wopsle and ends up spending the evening listening to Mr. Wopsle read a book to him and Mr. Pumblechook. Mr. Wopsle and Pip walk back to the village together, running into a drunken Orlick on the road. As they



approach the Three Jolly Bargemen, they learn that someone broke into the Gargery home and hit Mrs. Joe over the head with an unknown object.

Analysis

Pip spends nearly a year exercising with Miss Havisham and spending time with Estella. This time only serves to show Pip the differences between him and Estella, making him feel less. This fuels Pip's desire to be educated, to be more than just a blacksmith. Although Joe has sacrificed for Pip, although Pip deeply cares for Joe, Pip does not want Joe's life. As Pip is apprenticed to Joe and sent away by Miss Havisham, his future seems bleak in his own eyes. It becomes more so when Pip learns that Estella has gone away. It is these circumstances that will continue to motivate Pip as the novel continues to develop.

Mrs. Joe and Orlick, Joe's journeyman, get into an argument that forces Joe to go against his nature and turn to violence to protect his wife's dignity. That same night Mrs. Joe is attacked in her own home while Joe and Pip are out. Orlick is on the road about the time of Mrs. Joe's attack, however, as witnessed by Pip and Mr. Wopsle, leaving the reader wondering who would do such a thing and for what reason. The reader also wonders how this attack might alter Pip's life. Mrs. Joe is a bitter, angry woman, as witnessed by her anger when Joe is asked to visit Miss Havisham in her place. How the attack might affect her will bear greatly on Joe and Pip's future.

Vocabulary

expectations, objection, liberal, sphere, possessor, confidential, parlor, impressive, conference, leisure, reference, homeward, relish, determined, fancies, confidence, convinced, vaguely, embankment, superstitious, ignorant, apprenticed, numerous, insensibly, testimony, evidence, punishment



Chapter 16-19

Summary

Chapter 16. An investigation into the attack on Mrs. Joe reveals that she was hit over the head with a rusty pair of leg irons, leg irons that Pip believes belonged to his own convict. This causes Pip some guilt because he wonders if somehow he could be responsible for her injury even though he was not there and did not commit it himself. No clues are ever found to the responsible party however, and interest wanes. Mrs. Joe recovers from her injury, but her mental capacity is forever altered. Mrs. Joe cannot speak properly and is forced to write in her own crude way for what she wants to say. Biddy, who has lost her position in the Wopsle home due to the death of Mr. Wopsle's aunt, comes to stay so that she might care for Mrs. Joe. Biddy has an uncanny ability to understand Mrs. Joe when no one else can, the only one who understands a crude drawing of a hammer is Mrs. Joe's way of addressing Orlick.

Chapter 17. As Pip continues to learn at Joe's side, he also continues to attempt to further his education on his own. Everything Pip struggles to learn he discovers Biddy picks up easily. One day Pip takes Biddy on a walk on the marshes and confesses to her that he wants to be a gentleman because of Estella's derision of him. Biddy wants to know if he wants to prove something to Estella or if he wants to win her heart. Pip confesses his love for Estella. Pip then tells Biddy he wishes he could be happy in Joe's profession, but is afraid he never will be. Later, as they walk home, Biddy tells Pip that she thinks Orlick is in love with her, but she is frightened of him. Pip does not believe her but stays with her until Orlick is gone.

Chapter 18. Four years after becoming Joe's apprentice, Joe and Pip are at the Three Jolly Bargemen enjoying a drink and listening to Mr. Wopsle read the testimony from a murder trial in the paper. A stranger ridicules Mr. Wopsle for jumping to the conclusion that the defendant is guilty without hearing the defense. The man then asks to accompany Joe and Pip home because he has business with them. This man is Jaggers, a lawyer from London, who has come to tell them that a client of his has made Pip the beneficiary of some property. This unknown person wants to remain anonymous, but he wants Pip to become a gentleman. Not only is Pip to inherit the property, but he will be given a monthly allowance and taught by a tutor in London. The only condition is that Pip retain his name and he never seek to learn who his benefactor is. Joe quickly agrees to allow Pip to go, throwing his indenture papers into the fire immediately, without asking for financial compensation. It is arranged that Pip will leave the following week. Pip is excited by the news, but both Biddy and Joe are saddened at the idea of Pip leaving. They attempt to explain everything to Mrs. Joe, but she fails to understand.

Chapter 19. Pip goes for a walk on the marshes and Joe follows. Pip laments Joe's lack of education. Later Pip asks Biddy to help Joe learn to read so that when he inherits his land he might find a position for Joe on it. Biddy is offended by Pip's suggestion that Joe



might not be good enough for his new life. Bidly also suggests that Joe is too prideful to ever take a position on Pip's property as his servant. The next day Pip goes into town and arranges for a new suit and shoes with money Jagers left him. Word quickly spreads that Pip has come into property. Mr. Pumblechook has Pip for dinner and constantly asks to shake his hand and feeds Pip all the good food Pumblechook would have reserved for himself in the past.

The following Thursday, Pip returns to Mr. Pumblechook's to pick up his clothing and to visit Miss Havisham. Miss Pocket is staying with Miss Havisham and she is deeply jealous of Pip's new station in society. Miss Pocket clearly believes Miss Havisham is Pip's benefactor and it makes Pip believe this as well. The next morning, Pip wakes early and has a silent, tense breakfast with Joe and Bidly. Pip refuses to allow Bidly and Joe to walk him to the coach, but finds himself overcome with tears as he walks out of the village.

Analysis

Mrs. Joe is no longer the controlling, angry woman she was before. In fact, Joe and Pip have no idea how much of her intelligence she retains because she cannot speak and does little more than sit in a chair most days. However, Mrs. Joe tries hard to get across Orlick's name. This should remain in the readers thoughts as the novel continues to develop because it will prove important.

Pip learns that an anonymous benefactor has chosen him to inherit some property. Pip will go to London to become a gentleman, just as he has always wanted. Joe and Bidly are saddened by this because it will mean that Pip will leave, but Pip is excited beyond reason and Mr. Pumblechook is taking credit for it all. The reader realizes that Pip and Mr. Pumblechook think that Miss Havisham is responsible for this windfall. Even Miss Havisham seems to imply it when her relative, Miss Pocket, becomes jealous of Pip's change in life. However, the reader must recall that part of Pip's acceptance of this property is that he not learn who the benefactor is until that person is ready to reveal him/herself.

The reader should also take notice of Pip's relationship with Bidly. Bidly clearly has deep feelings for Pip and Pip considers her a good friend. However, Bidly clearly cares for Pip in a romantic sense. It seems that if Pip were content to remain in the village and live his life like Joe that he would marry Bidly. However, this is not his destiny.

Vocabulary

summary, inexpertly, various, leisure, prepossessions, momentary, lamentation, enduring, speculations, distraught, unconscious, blustered, confidentially, excitable, approaching, arrangements, liberal, portmanteau, journey, instructions, tailor, inevitable, benefactor, property, absence, appearance, admiration, instrument



Chapter 20-24

Summary

Chapter 20. Pip arrives in London and takes a hackney to Mr. Jaggers' office. Pip meets the clerk, Mr. Wemmick, and learns that Mr. Jaggers is in court. Pip waits in his office for a time, but two busts on a shelf creep him out so he decides to walk around the city for a time. After a time, Pip notices that there are a large group of people waiting on the street for Mr. Jaggers. When he finally comes, he sends most of the people away and escorts Pip to his office. Mr. Jaggers informs Pip that he will be staying with Matthew Pocket's son for the weekend and then will accompany him to the Pocket home. Jaggers also informs Pip that his credit is good all over town and he should ask Wemmick if he ever needs cash.

Chapter 21. As Mr. Wemmick walks Pip to his temporary quarters, he tells him about Mr. Jaggers and the criminals that he often helps. Pip learns that Mr. Jaggers is well respected in London because of his ability to get many criminals off. Mr. Wemmick leaves Pip outside the apartment of Mr. Herbert Pocket. After a few minutes, Mr. Pocket comes home with fresh groceries for dinner. As Pip looks at his new roommate he realizes he is the same pale gentleman he once beat up in Miss Havisham's garden.

Chapter 22. The two men get to know one another. Herbert decides he would rather call Pip Handel because of his blacksmith's appearance rather than Philip, his given name. Over dinner they discuss Miss Havisham. Pip learns that Miss Havisham had a half brother who inherited half of their father's property with her, but that he burned through it quickly. As a result of this and Miss Havisham's reluctance to give him any of her share, the brother hired a young man to seduce Miss Havisham, inducing her to give him money that the two men would share. This young man then disappeared on their wedding day. Pip also learns that Miss Havisham is angry with Matthew Pocket, Herbert's father, because he was the only one of the relatives who tried to warn Miss Havisham about her young seducer.

The following Monday, Herbert escorts Pip to his family home, Hammersmith. Pip discovers that Herbert's mother is a woman whose father thought she should marry a titled man, but she settled for Matthew Pocket. For this reason, she is uninvolved in the lives of her children and spends the majority of her time reading about the titled and elite.

Chapter 23. Mr. Pocket introduces Pip to the other two students he is tutoring at the time, Drummle, a troubled young man of good parentage, and Startop, a quiet scholar. At dinner, Pip is witness to the dysfunction of the family and how the servants and younger children tend to take on the responsibility the parents are unable or unwilling to take on themselves.



Chapter 24. Pip settles in with the Pockets fairly quickly, but finds he would like to continue to take a room in Herbert's apartment for when he is in the city. Mr. Jaggers allows him the money he needs to buy furniture and to help pay the rent. After Jaggers leaves the office, Pip asks Wemmick about the busts that have disturbed him so deeply. Pip learns they are the likeness of two of Jaggers' early clients who helped him establish his reputation in London. Wemmick explains that Jaggers' clients are often making gifts to Jaggers and his clerks. In fact, most of the rings and a brooch Wemmick wears came from grateful clients.

Analysis

Pip arrives in London and makes his first friend of Herbert Pocket, the pale young man that he once beat up in Miss Havisham's garden. Herbert is a member of Miss Havisham's extended family and is able to tell Pip why she lives in her dark, depressing world. Miss Havisham was conned by her half-brother and another young man he convinced to seduce her. It is for this reason that Miss Havisham has stopped time and has become so bitter against men.

Pip takes his place in Mr. Pocket's home and learns more about his new guardian, quickly finding his place in this world that is so different from the one he has left behind. The reader sees all the comforts that Pip now has and wonders if Joe will become a part of the past rather than to remain the main influence in Pip's life.

Vocabulary

detach, guardian, establishment, impartiality, appearance, mingled, ultimately, tumbled, argumentative, crumpled, inquired, extraordinary, providentially, perfection, contrivance, tarpaulin, commended, compliments, cordial, jocose, discomfiture, circumstances, prosperous, deemed, advisable, gladiator



Chapter 25-29

Summary

Chapter 25. Pip takes Mr. Wemmick up on an invitation to visit him at his home. As they walk to Mr. Wemmick's home, Pip notices a change in his behavior and attitude, the fact that he becomes much more relaxed as they reach his home, a castle of sorts that he has built slowly up by himself. Pip is introduced to Mr. Wemmick's elderly father who has come to live with Mr. Wemmick because of his profound deafness. Mr. Wemmick explains that his office work is simply to help pay for his father's care and that he keeps his home and professional life carefully separated.

Chapter 26. Pip and his fellow students, as well as Herbert, are invited to Mr. Jaggers' for dinner. Mr. Jaggers expresses an affinity with Drummle immediately, although Pip dislikes him. Mr. Jaggers spends a great deal of time throughout the meal talking to Drummle. However, when his maid comes into the room, Mr. Jaggers makes a big deal out of showing his dinner guests the woman's strong wrist.

Chapter 27. Pip receives a letter from Biddy informing him that Joe is coming to London with Mr. Wopsle and he wants to see Pip. Pip immediately notices a change in Joe when he arrives. Joe begins calling Pip sir and acting formal around him. When Herbert shows up, Joe seems to be even more uncomfortable. When they are alone again, Pip asks Joe why he calls him sir. Joe tells him that he is a gentleman now and must be treated that way. Finally, Joe tells Pip the reason he has come is to tell him that Miss Havisham wanted him to know that Estella has returned from school. Joe then takes his leave, telling Pip that if they are ever to see one another again it will be when Pip comes to him because he does not belong in the trappings of Pip's new world.

Chapter 28. Pip makes arrangements to travel to Rochester the following day to see Estella and to speak with Joe. When Pip arrives at the coach, he learns that a pair of convicts is to ride with them to the Hulks. Pip is unbothered by this, but others are and there is a delay while the driver attempts to satisfy one angry passenger. Finally they are on the road. The convicts, sitting directly behind Pip, begin to talk, and Pip realizes they are talking about him. One of the convicts is the man who brought the money to Pip that night in the Three Jolly Bargeman. Pip learns now that the man was put up to it by another, unnamed convict. Pip arrives in Rochester a short time later and takes a room at the Blue Boar. It is here that Pip learns from the waiter that Mr. Pumblechook has taken credit for Pip's great expectations.

Chapter 29. Pip goes to visit Miss Havisham and finds Orlick working the gate. Upstairs, Pip talks with Miss Havisham and realizes the young woman in the room with them is Estella. Miss Havisham asks Pip what he thinks of Estella now and is quite happy to see that he is as in love with her now as he was before. Estella, however, appears to still think of Pip as that crude little boy he once was. Pip and Estella walk in the garden and discuss the past. Again, Miss Havisham encourages Pip to fall in love with Estella. This



makes Pip believe that Miss Havisham has become his benefactor in order to marry him to Estella. Later, when Pip has dinner with Mr. Jaggers, Miss Havisham's lawyer, Pip asks if this is a possibility, but Jaggers refuses to answer. Before Pip leaves, he learns that Miss Havisham is to come to London and he is to meet her coach.

Analysis

Pip and Mr. Wemmick become friends. Wemmick is a different man outside of the office and Pip finds him to be quite enjoyable. Pip has also become close friends with Startop and Herbert, but finds Drummle, his other co-student, unpleasant. It is ironic, therefore, that Mr. Jaggers finds Drummle such a delight.

Pip has a meeting with Joe and discovers that Joe is intimidated by Pip's new life. Joe is uncomfortable in Pip's world and informs Pip that he will not visit him, that if Pip wants to see him he must come to his home where Joe can be himself and they can revert to their previous relationship. Pip fails to do this, however, when he returns to Rochester to visit Miss Havisham. Pip cares for Joe, but he is uncomfortable around him and dislikes the reminder of where he has come from. It is a sad note in the relationship and one that Pip is well aware of, one that leaves him filled with guilt.

Pip becomes stronger in his conviction that Miss Havisham is his benefactor when he visits her and finds her determined that he fall in love with her young ward, Estella. Pip believes Miss Havisham plans to make him a gentleman so that he can marry Estella. The fact that Jaggers is her lawyer seems to reinforce this idea. Pip could not be happier with the idea that he will marry Estella one day, despite Estella's continued harshness with him.

Vocabulary

household, destination, absorbed, celebrated, accommodated, wholesome, persisted, expressed, unnatural, advanced, confessed, unfortunate, kettledrum, authority, indignation, abominate, examination, concession, justice, ultimately, endeavor, encouraging, approval, exposed, unsatisfactory, indefinite



Chapter 30-34

Summary

Chapter 30. Pip returns to London after telling Jaggers about Orlick and encouraging him to fire the man. At home, Pip tells Herbert about Estella and confesses his love for her. After they discuss the situation, Herbert confesses that he is engaged to a young woman named Clara and that they are waiting for her invalid father to die before they marry.

Chapter 31. Pip and Herbert go to the theater to watch Mr. Wopsle in his new career as an actor. The play is Shakespeare's Hamlet, but it is such a poor production that the audience laughs all through it. Pip and Herbert, however, lie to Mr. Wopsle afterward and assure him it was a brilliant performance.

Chapter 32. Pip learns that Estella has come to London and he goes to meet her coach many hours before it is due. Mr. Wemmick finds him there and invites him to go with him into Newgate Prison. Pip walks among the cells with Wemmick and discovers just how much influence Mr. Jaggers has over these criminals and the guards that watch him. However, Pip finds the prisoners sad and wishes he could wash away the smell of the prison before Estella arrives.

Chapter 33. When Estella arrives, she instructs Pip that he is to get her tea and then escort her to Richmond to the home of some friends of Miss Havisham's where she will be staying to be introduced to London society. Pip orders her tea in a room at the coach station, but they are so ill prepared that it takes a long time to produce an inferior cup of tea. As they wait, Estella tells Pip about Miss Havisham's relatives and their pitiful attempts at winning favor in order to inherit her money when she dies. They then ride out to Richmond, where Estella leaves Pip yearning for her heart.

Chapter 34. Pip has joined a gentleman's club, where he often goes with Herbert for dinner and to drink in the company of the other gentlemen. Pip and Herbert often drink throughout the night, spending too much money and feeling too sick to go to their respective jobs. Pip has also found himself incurring great amounts of debt buying jewelry, clothing, and other luxuries. Pip and Herbert got into the habit of tallying their debts every few weeks, but they never really managed to make them disappear. On one of these occasions, Pip receives a note that his sister has died.

Analysis

Pip returns home and in a short time he learns of Estella's arrival. Pip escorts Estella to the home of the people who are to introduce her to London society. This episode shows the reader how deeply Pip feels for Estella. Despite Estella's continued cruelty toward Pip, he continues to love her and to believe that she will one day be his.



The reader learns that Pip and Herbert are incurring a great deal of debt in their lives in London. This comes from not only enjoying the freedoms of being gentlemen with money, but a lack of discipline that comes with youth. This is not necessarily a problem at this point because Pip and Herbert have a constant source of income. However, it could become a problem if that income would somehow disappear. In this time period, people who could not pay their debts were arrested.

Vocabulary

recompense, impressive, gentleman, presiding, impossible, stitches, cathedrals, beseeching, impudence, reflection, ingenuity, admirers, assurance, malicious, assigned, dreadful, trembling, performed, afterwards, slumber, appertaining, amazement, appliances, rubicund, cestus, delighted, accompanied, contrivance



Chapter 35-39

Summary

Chapter 35. Pip goes home for his sister's funeral. A great deal is made over it and there are strangers carrying her body from Joe's home. Joe and Biddy do not seem bothered by this but Pip knows that it is all about his own station in life, not his sister. Afterward, Pip talks with Biddy in the garden. Biddy tells Pip that she plans to be a teacher in the new schoolhouse they are building in the village. As they talk, Biddy tells him that Orlick is there, watching them. Pip scares him away. Biddy then tells Pip that he should come visit Joe often because he will be lonely now. Pip promises he will.

Chapter 36. On Pip's twenty-first birthday, he is called into Mr. Jaggers' office and learns that he will be getting a yearly stipend of five hundred pounds from now on, beginning with a gift of five hundred pounds on that day. However, Pip learns that he is not to learn the name of his benefactor that day. After this meeting, Pip asks Mr. Wemmick his opinion on someone secretly buying a business partnership for a friend. Mr. Wemmick encourages him to ask at his home rather than in the office.

Chapter 37. Pip goes to Mr. Wemmick's castle and finds the father alone there. Mr. Wemmick comes home shortly with a young woman named Miss Skiffins. Mr. Wemmick and Pip walk in the yard for a short time and discuss Pip's desire to buy a partnership in a shipping company for Herbert without Herbert's knowledge. Mr. Wemmick agrees to help him. A short time later, Pip learns that Mr. Wemmick has set the whole thing up for him.

Chapter 38. Pip sees Estella often at the home of Miss Havisham's home. Estella asks him not to fall in love with her, but it is too late. One day Pip learns that Estella is to go home to visit Miss Havisham. Pip is to escort her. On this visit, Miss Havisham accuses Estella of being cold toward her. Estella tells Miss Havisham that it is her fault that she is so cold because Miss Havisham taught her to distrust anything having to do with love. They argue, and Miss Havisham suddenly realizes what she has done to Estella. Later, after returning to London, Pip learns that Estella has been courted by Drummle. There is a fight and Pip quits the gentleman's club. A short time later, Pip runs into Estella at a ball she is attending with Drummle.

Chapter 39. Pip is now twenty-three and living in a new apartment with Herbert. One night, while Herbert is out of town on business, Pip has a strange visitor. This man tells Pip that he is Able Magwitch, traveling by the name Provis, and that he has come to England to see Pip despite the fact that returning to England could cause him to be arrested and executed. This man is Pip's convict from that night so long ago and he has made his fortune in New South Wales. This man is Pip's benefactor. Ashamed and frightened, Pip allows this man to spend the night in Herbert's room, but he is too afraid to sleep.



Analysis

Pip goes home for his sister's funeral and promises to be a part of Joe's life now that he is alone, but the reader suspects that Pip has grown to far apart from Joe to be a part of his life. It is also clear that Biddy would like nothing better than for Pip to come home and be her husband, but this thought never occurs to him. Pip is too deeply in love with cruel Estella to notice Biddy's unhappiness.

Pip witnesses Estella telling Miss Havisham that she has raised her to be a cold woman, against anything having to do with love. This admission seems to shock Miss Havisham, who did not realize that teaching Estella to reject men and their romantic love would cause her to include Miss Havisham and other people in her rejection. This is a rude awakening for Miss Havisham and it proves that despite her own cruelty, she still wants to be loved and still loves Estella.

Pip learns that Estella has been courted by Drummle, the man he despises from his days as Matthew Pocket's student. This upsets Pip and causes a fight at the gentleman's club. It suggests to the reader that Pip's hopes of having Estella are quickly falling apart. At the same time, Pip learns that his benefactor was not Miss Havisham but the convict he helped that long ago night in the marshes. This is a shocking revelation that changes everything in Pip's mind, making him regret taking this opportunity to change his life.

Vocabulary

motioning, interchanged, introducing, remained, thriving, incursion, opposite, opinion, acquainted, materials, appointed, hardened, forsook, residences, particularly, consideration, groping, increased, abhorrence, agonies, notwithstanding, horrors, consideration, comprehending



Chapter 40-44

Summary

Chapter 40. Pip leaves the apartment early in the morning to get a light. On the stairs, Pip trips over a man, but when he returns the man is gone. Pip questions the watchman about Provis' arrival and learns there was another man who entered the gate behind Provis, but whoever it was is gone now. Pip then tells the man that Provis is his uncle and will be staying with him for a time. When he returns to the apartment, Provis is awake. Pip asks him about another man, but Provis does not remember one. In the morning light, Provis is more relaxed about his situation, determined to remain in England for the unforeseen future. Pip, on the other hand, is more convinced than ever that this is not a good idea. To distance himself, Pip engages another room for Mr. Provis. He then goes to Mr. Jaggers and asks him to confirm that this man is his benefactor. While not admitting to anything directly, Mr. Jaggers confirms what Provis has told Pip. When Pip returns to his rooms, he tries to decide what to do next, even entertaining the idea of becoming a soldier.

Chapter 41. When Herbert returns, Pip tells him all and laments his situation, asking advice as to what he should do next. Herbert advises Pip to convince Provis to return to New South Wales immediately. To this end, Herbert and Pip invite Mr. Provis to dinner. Before he will speak of his past, however, Mr. Provis makes Herbert swear to secrecy on an old Bible.

Chapter 42. Mr. Provis tells the story of his former self, Abel Magwitch, to both Herbert and Pip. Abel grew up on the streets and was forced to steal in order to support himself. This led to several arrests and a life of poverty. Abel met a man named Compeyson one day and went into partnership with him. Compeyson made his living forging handwriting and laundering money. When Abel first met Compeyson, a man named Arthur and his wife were living with him. This man died soon after Abel came, out of fright of a woman he once wronged. Compeyson and Abel worked together for a long while, but when they were arrested for their crimes, Compeyson made it appear as though Abel was the only one involved directly in the crimes because he never met the victims and he behaved like a gentleman. Later, Abel escaped the Hulks and Compeyson followed. They were both given longer sentences, but Abel's was much worse because of his history and he was expelled from England for life. Abel tells them that Compeyson has always vowed revenge on Abel and that he might at that time be looking for him. After hearing this story, Herbert slides a book cover toward Pip that he had written the information that Arthur was the name of Miss Havisham's brother and Compeyson her lover.

Chapter 43. Mr. Provis' story of his past makes Pip worry for Estella. Pip goes immediately to see Estella, only to learn she has returned to Miss Havisham permanently. Pip decides to go to Rochester where he finds Drummle at the Blue Boar. The two men are clearly there for the same reason, and they have a battle of wills



before Drummle finally backs down and leaves. Before he goes, however, Drummle makes it clear he is there to be with Estella.

Chapter 44. Pip goes to Miss Havisham's and finds Estella sitting with her in her room. Pip tells Miss Havisham he is there to see Estella and accuses Miss Havisham of letting him believe that she was his benefactor in a cruel game to cause him heartbreak. Miss Havisham admits that she allowed her relatives to believe that she was Pip's benefactor to make them angry. Pip then turns to Estella and confesses his love and asks her to stop seeing Drummle. Estella, however, tells Pip that she intends to marry Drummle. Estella tells him that she has no heart and she is not capable of love; therefore, he should leave her alone. Pip leaves heartbroken and walks all the way back to London. When he arrives, Pip finds a note from Wemmick warning him not to go home.

Analysis

Pip gets confirmation that Abel Magwitch, aka Abel Provis, is his benefactor. Pip is appalled at this fact and he suddenly regrets taking the money and leaving Joe. Pip feels that Joe was a much better man and he left his home to become a false gentleman with a criminal's money. Pip no longer wants to have anything to do with Provis' money. Now Pip is an educated man who will not fit into Joe's life, but he does not have the money to continue in the life he has become accustomed to. For this reason, Pip considers becoming a soldier, a profession that is not glamorous, but it is a step up from a blacksmith's life.

Pip hears Abel Magwitch's story and discovers that Abel's life has a great deal in common with Miss Havisham's life. In fact, Abel's old partner is the same man who broke Miss Havisham's heart and caused her to be so cruel to her family, Estella, and Pip. This ironic turn makes the reader realize that there is more common ground between Pip and Estella than Estella could possibly understand. At the same time, Pip learns that Estella is to marry Drummle. Estella tells him she plans to do this because she has no heart and she is not capable of love. However, the reader wonders if Estella does this because she returns Pip's feelings but she is afraid of being hurt, so she hurts him first by marrying the one man he dislikes the most. In any case, Pip now finds himself without any of the great expectations he once had.

Vocabulary

scolded, acceptance, danger, disquiet, conversation, enhanced, peculiar, curious, readily, disfigured, propensities, connection, dejection, solitude, articles, gloomy, creditors, partaken, decline, reviving, gridiron, accumulated, mountainous, circumstances, superannuated, portable property, engaged, recommended



Chapter 45-49

Summary

Chapter 45. Pip takes Wemmick's note and quickly leaves the gate outside his residence. Pip takes a bed for the night in a public house. In the morning, Pip walks to Wemmick's home in Walworth. Mr. Wemmick welcomes him and tells him that he heard a rumor at Newgate that Compeyson is in London and has learned that Magwitch is also there. Wemmick has also heard that there are people watching Pip for signs of Magwitch. Wemmick recommends hiding Magwitch until it is safe to get him out of the country. In fact, Wemmick tells him that Herbert has already arranged for Mr. Provis to take a room in the same house where his future wife lives with her father.

Chapter 46. Pip stays with Mr. Wemmick until night and then walks to the house where Herbert has hidden Mr. Provis. Here Pip meets Herbert's fiancée for the first time. Pip also learns about her father's illness and demanding alcoholism. Pip then visits with Mr. Provis, telling him all Wemmick told him. It is decided that Pip will not come to visit Mr. Provis, but will buy a boat and row past his windows from time to time. Mr. Provis will signal Pip to let him know if all is well. Pip makes these arrangements, convinced he is being watched the entire time.

Chapter 47. Several weeks go by and Pip becomes quite the boater, becoming acquainted with the river and all those who use it. During this time, Pip goes to see another play featuring Mr. Wopsle, this one as bad as the first. Afterward, Mr. Wopsle tells Pip that he saw the convict from that long ago night on the marshes sitting behind Pip during the performance. His description makes Pip believe the man was Compeyson.

Chapter 48. A week later, Pip runs into Mr. Jaggers in the street and is invited to dinner. As they discuss Drummle's marriage to Estella, Pip finds himself staring at Jaggers' maid, Molly. The housekeeper looks a great deal like Estella. As they leave Mr. Jaggers', Pip asks Wemmick about the maid. Pip learns that Molly was Mr. Jaggers' first big case, a woman accused of killing her man's lover. The woman was also thought to have killed her three-year-old child, a daughter, but this she was not charged with. Jaggers got the woman off by claiming she lacked the strength to kill a woman larger than herself.

Chapter 49. Pip goes to Miss Havisham's the next day. A woman Pip has never seen before admits him to the house. Pip talks with Miss Havisham about his desire to have her finance the remainder of his debt to the shipping company in which he was buying a partnership for Herbert. Miss Havisham listens closely and then writes out instructions to Mr. Jaggers to give him the remaining money for the partnership. Miss Havisham then asks Pip to forgive her for what she did to him by convincing him to love the heartless Estella. Pip assures her there is nothing to assure. He then asks where



Estella came from. Miss Havisham tells him that she asked Mr. Jaggers to find a female child for her to raise and he did.

Pip goes for a walk in the garden and returns to check on Miss Havisham after seeing an apparition of her in the garden similar to one he saw his first day there. Pip finds Miss Havisham in the banquet room, where she has lit herself on fire. Pip grabs her and puts out the flames. A doctor comes and lays Miss Havisham out on the banquet table and treats the burns. Pip stays the night with her and can hear her continuing to ask for forgiveness.

Analysis

Pip learns that Compeyson is attempting to find Magwitch, so Pip and Herbert hide him until Wemmick gives them the okay to attempt to get him out of the country. Pip becomes less critical of Magwitch as he realizes just what kind of danger his benefactor placed himself in when he came to England just to see him. Pip vows to do all he can to help Magwitch.

Now that Pip has no money, he must turn to Miss Havisham to ask for help in finishing his contract with the shipping company through whom he has bought a partnership for Herbert. Miss Havisham, who has finally realized what her self-imposed exile and desire to protect Estella from her kind of heartbreak, has done to those around her decides to help him. At the same time, Miss Havisham feels that her actions are unforgiveable and she attempts to kill herself. Pip is there to save her, but causes injury to himself in the process. Pip tries to convince Miss Havisham that she is not responsible for his own heartbreak, but she refuses to accept that.

Pip has come to the realization that Miss Havisham adopted Estella and that her mother is a criminal who was defended by Mr. Jaggers. Estella's mother is Molly, Mr. Jaggers' maid, a woman once accused of murdering her man's lover. This causes the reader to realize that Estella is the same as Pip, an orphan of low birth who was elevated in a surprising turn of events. Estella, who criticized Pip for his commonness, is more common than he ever was.

Vocabulary

foreign, anxious, consideration, reference, mechanical, violent, injunction, hindrance, passports, accident, information, exceedingly, distinctly, wretched, parentage, garments, disturbed, bridal, momentary, mournfulness, illusion, momentary, opposite, miniature, ghastly, mounted, tarnished, blighted, mentioned, partnership, expression



Chapter 50-54

Summary

Chapter 50. When Pip returns home, Herbert devotes a day to nurse Pip's badly burned arm. Herbert tells Pip that he went to visit with Mr. Provis and he was more talkative this time. Mr. Provis told Herbert about a woman he loved during his time with Compeyson, a woman who was accused of killing another woman and told him that she had killed their three-year-old daughter. Pip listens to this story and realizes that Mr. Provis, aka Abel Magwitch, is Estella's father.

Chapter 51. Pip goes to visit Mr. Jaggers the following day and finds him going over the accounts with Mr. Wemmick. Pip asks if Mr. Jaggers gave Molly's baby to Miss Havisham. Mr. Jaggers admits to giving Miss Havisham a baby and then admits that he needed to get rid of Molly's baby for her defense and also to save it from a life of poverty, so he convinced her to allow him to give the child away in exchange for defending her in the murder case.

Chapter 52. Pip gets a note from Wemmick telling him to take Mr. Provis out of the country on Wednesday. Pip and Herbert quickly check the ships leaving on that day and arrange for passports. When Pip returns home from his errands, he finds a note asking him to go to his old village to meet someone who knows about Mr. Provis. Pip quickly gets on the last coach of the day. Pip stops for dinner at an inn and hears stories of himself from the waiter with Mr. Pumblechook as the hero. Pip feels bad that no one ever thought of Joe as his previous guardian, his first benefactor.

Chapter 53. Pip walks out to the lime kiln where he is to meet the mysterious note writer. When Pip arrives at the old sluice house he finds a light on, but the place empty. When Pip goes inside to investigate, someone grabs him from behind and ties him up. Pip finds himself a prisoner of Orlick, Joe's old journeyman. Orlick confesses to having hit Mrs. Joe on the head and to having heard Pip promise to remove him from Biddy's life. Orlick also tells Pip that he has been spying on him for Compeyson and it was he who Pip tripped over on the steps the night Provis first came to him. As Orlick drinks the courage to kill Pip, he calls out for help. Suddenly, light fills the room and Pip falls unconscious to the floor. When he wakes, he discovers that Herbert and Startop have come to his rescue, with the help of Trabb's boy, after Herbert found the note suggesting this meeting on the floor of their rooms. Pip is taken carefully back to London where he convalesces for a day in his rooms before his planned journey.

Chapter 54. Herbert, Startop, and Pip row down the river in Pip's boat and carefully pick Mr. Provis up at his residence. They continue down the river until it grows dark, and then they pull ashore near a remote public-house. They take rooms and have their dinner, where the servant boy tells them of a group of men who had been at the house earlier in the day. This servant thinks the men were with the customs. Later that night, while everyone else is sleeping, Pip wakes and sees two men walking in the woods



outside the house. When Pip tells this to Herbert the following day, they decide that Pip and Mr. Provis should walk up the river and wait in hiding until they are ready to row out into the river to meet the ship. The plan works, but when the ships come into view, another rowboat comes toward them and a man calls out that they have come to arrest Abel Magwitch.

Pip's boat is overturned when Compeyson, who has come with the soldiers to identify Magwitch, reaches for Magwitch and they tip the boat. Compeyson is killed when he is caught under the ship and Magwitch badly injured. When everyone is pulled from the river, they return to the public-house and Magwitch is arrested. Magwitch assures Pip that he does not care what happens to him as long as Pip is a gentleman, but all of Magwitch's money and property is confiscated upon his arrest.

Analysis

Pip is badly injured from the fire that injured Miss Havisham. This injury makes it impossible for Pip to row his boat any longer, endangering his plans to get Mr. Provis out of the country. For this reason, when word comes that it is time to move, Herbert enlists the help of Pip's old schoolmate, Startop. However, before Pip can leave the country, he finds himself pulled into a scheme by Orlick.

Orlick confesses to having injured Mrs. Joe. This should explain to the reader why Mrs. Joe tried so hard to identify Orlick after her injury, but she could not recall his name and only knew to draw a hammer to identify him. This was Mrs. Joe's attempt to identify her killer which suggests to the reader that her intelligence was not as badly affected as the family might have thought. However, no one understood Mrs. Joe's actions and this leaves Pip in danger because Orlick grows to dislike him because of his interference with Bidley and because Pip got Orlick fired from Miss Havisham's. However, Herbert has come to Pip's rescue and saves him just in time.

Pip tries to escape with Mr. Provis, but Compeyson has joined up with the soldiers to recapture him, a situation that is sure to end in Mr. Provis' execution. During the apprehension, however, Compeyson is killed and Mr. Provis is badly injured. Mr. Provis is not saddened by this because he has expected it, but he labors under the false belief that Pip will retain his money and position. However, all of Mr. Provis's assets are taken upon his arrest, leaving Pip worse off than he was before Mr. Provis attempted to make a gentleman of him.

Vocabulary

vacillating, boundless, confidence, threatened, companions, steamer, obnoxious, contempt, gallows, inward, slouched, opposite, supported, bandages, overgrown, violence, unbeknownst, inconceivable, rapidity, escape, unclenched, snarling, interview, beseeching, ferocious, consideration, proffered



Chapter 55-59

Summary

Chapter 55. Mr. Jaggers takes Mr. Magwitch's case, but does not tell him the truth about his assets as per Pip's wishes. Herbert is forced to leave before Magwitch's trial because he is to take over an office in Cairo for the shipping business. Herbert offers Pip a position as a clerk with the office and Pip asks for time to consider the offer. A short time later, Wemmick asks Pip to take a walk with him. During this walk, Wemmick marries Miss Skiffins.

Chapter 56. Mr. Magwitch is very ill; therefore, the prison allows Pip generous options in visitation. However, this generosity does not follow into Mr. Magwitch's trial and sentencing. Mr. Magwitch is sentenced to death. Pip continues to visit Mr. Magwitch as often as possible. One day, it is clear that Mr. Magwitch has reached the end and the governor of the prison allows Pip to stay longer. Pip tells Mr. Magwitch that his daughter is still alive and that she is a lady. Mr. Magwitch dies soon after.

Chapter 57. Pip becomes very ill soon after Mr. Magwitch's death. The police come to arrest him for his outstanding debts, but he convinces them he is too ill. Pip loses touch with reality, but when he begins getting better, he realizes that Joe has come to care for him. As Pip continues to get better, Joe tells him about life back in the village. Pip is saddened to learn that Miss Havisham died, but amused to learn she left the bulk of her estate to Estella and Matthew Pocket, specifically stating that she left money to Matthew Pocket because of Pip. Pip is also interested to learn that Bidley has finally taught Joe to write. Pip also learns that Joe knows about his benefactor and the loss of his money and promised property.

As Pip grows stronger, Joe begins to pull away, calling Pip sir as he had done before. Finally, one morning Pip wakes to discover that Joe has left. Pip also discovers that Joe has paid off the worst of Pip's debts, saving him from jail.

Chapter 58. Pip travels to the Blue Boar and discovers that word of his return to poverty has arrived before him and the treatment he once received is over. Mr. Pumblechook comes and tries to remind Pip that he was his earliest benefactor. Pip disregards him and rushes to the village, hoping to find Bidley so that he might apologize for his previous treatment of her and ask her to be his wife. Instead, Pip arrives at Joe's house to discover that Joe and Bidley are to be married that day. Pip joins in the celebration and wishes for happiness for the two of them. Afterward, Pip sells all he has to satisfy some of his debts and joins Herbert in Cairo as a clerk.

Chapter 59. Eleven years have passed. Pip has worked his way up to be partner in Herbert's shipping business. Herbert has finally married Clara and Pip resides in their home with them. Pip returns to his village to see Joe, who he discovers has had two children with Bidley. On a nostalgic walk into Rochester, Pip discovers that Miss



Havisham's house has been demolished and the property to be sold. As Pip walks through the old garden, he discovers Estella walking there as well. Pip knows that Estella is widowed, that Drummle died in a horse riding accident. Pip speaks with her for a moment and they walk away from the ruins of the past, into the future.

Analysis

Pip finds himself penniless and without his friends. Pip is nearly arrested for his accumulated debts, but Joe comes to his rescue. Joe proves to be a good friend to Pip and confesses his guilt for never having tried harder to protect Pip from Mrs. Joe. Pip finally realizes that Joe is a better man than most of the other men he has met in his new life as a gentleman, and he once again regrets ever having left Joe and his forge. Pip decides he must return to Joe and his old life, but when he discovers that Joe plans to marry Biddy, that Joe is going on with his life without Pip, he realizes he must stay out of the way and allow it to happen.

Pip settles for a life as a clerk and eventually he comes to be a partner in the shipping business with Herbert. Pip is doing well for himself, but has not married and never plans to marry. However, a trip home brings Pip back to Estella. They walk away from the past together and the reader is left with the impression that these two people, who are so much more alike than they were ever different, will live the rest of their lives together.

Vocabulary

remembrance, remained, mounds, placid, ensued, circumstances, murmur, casks, materials, effects, mournfully, virtue, conclusive, determined, property, informed, moderation, amongst, underpaid, interrupt, bedstead, accuracy, consuming, inexpressibly, possessed, gratefully, merciful, powerless



Characters

Philip 'Pip' Pirrip

Pip is a young orphan who has been left with his much older sister to raise him. Pip's sister is not happy with the responsibility of a child and she treats him unkindly. However, Pip is saved often by the kindness of his brother-in-law, Joe. Joe is very kind to Pip, but he is uneducated and leaves Pip feeling embarrassed by his ignorance, especially after Pip begins visiting Miss Havisham, a wealthy eccentric woman in Rochester. Pip quickly falls in love with Miss Havisham's adopted daughter and dreams of becoming a gentleman so that he might be her equal in love.

Pip feeds a desperate convict one Christmas morning, and this convict becomes obsessed with the idea of turning Pip into a gentleman. Pip learns that an unknown benefactor wants to help him become a gentleman and he wrongly assumes this benefactor is Miss Havisham. Pip accepts this windfall without a second thought and moves to London, despite being forced to leave Joe and his sister behind. Pip becomes educated and he has a good time as a gentleman, but soon discovers that none of it is as he thought it was.

Pip is a generous, kind young man who is filled with guilt when he realizes how he has hurt his friend Joe by leaving him. However, Pip makes amends when he allows Joe the joy of marrying his beloved Biddy without interference. Pip also shows his own generous side when he arranges for his dear friend Herbert to be given a partnership in a shipping business. Pip is also in love for the rest of his life with Estella and he patiently waits for her to come around to him.

Joe Gargery

Joe Gargery is a blacksmith who was badly abused as a child and forced to watch what similar abuse did to his beloved mother. For this reason, Joe married Pip's sister in order to protect Pip from her unkindness. However, Joe finds it impossible to stand up against his own wife because he does not want to misuse her as his father did his mother, and in doing so, destroy her character. For this reason, Joe allows more abuse of Pip to take place than he wants, but he feels that his interference will only make it harder on Pip.

Joe raises Pip practically alone after his wife is injured. Joe is very kind to Pip and wants him to be a blacksmith like him, but when Pip is offered the opportunity to become a gentleman, Joe refuses to stand in his way. However, Joe also finds himself uncomfortable in Pip's world and worries that he might embarrass Pip, so he refuses to visit Pip in London. For this reason, Pip is left with only the option of visiting Joe on his own, but he refuses to visit Joe because he is filled with guilt and does not want to add to that guilt with visits.



Joe is overshadowed by his uncle, Mr. Pumblechook, as Pip's first benefactor, and lost in the glory of Pip's great expectations. Joe is abandoned and forgotten by Pip. However, this does not stop Joe from going to Pip in his time of need and not only nursing him through an illness, but paying his most pressing debts to keep him out of jail. Joe proves to be the better man in everything he does and this reminds Pip to be a better man himself.

Georgiana M'Ria 'Mrs. Joe' Gargery

Mrs. Joe is Pip's much older sister. After the deaths of their parents, Mrs. Joe takes custody of Pip and later marries the local blacksmith, Joe Gargery. Mrs. Joe is an angry woman who often lashes out at Pip and Joe, using a device they call the Tickler to beat them. Mrs. Joe feels as though she has taken on a great burden by raising Pip, but that the child does not appreciate her efforts and will one day become a criminal. When Pip is asked to go to the home of Miss Havisham, Mrs. Joe lives vicariously through him, hoping to have some of her reputation or her wealth rub off on Mrs. Joe. Unfortunately, Mrs. Joe is never asked to the house, although her husband is. However, she does get a large sum of money that are the wages Miss Havisham has allotted to Pip for his services.

After a fight with the journeyman working in Joe's forge, Mrs. Joe is hit over the head by a rusty pair of leg-irons. The police never learn who would do this to her, but Pip eventually learns that Orlick, the journeyman, is responsible. Mrs. Joe spends the rest of her life unable to care for herself or to speak, using instead her rudimentary writing skills to communicate when necessary.

Estella Havisham

Estella is a spoiled child when the reader first meets her. She tends the gate at Satis House, but the reader does not learn who she is until much later in the novel. Estella plays cards with Pip on his first day at Miss Havisham's, but she finds him to be common and ignorant, opinions she does not hide and of which she makes sure Pip knows. This causes Pip great heartache, but it also makes him all the more determined to become educated, to be a gentleman.

Estella has been adopted by Miss Havisham with the intention for Miss Havisham to teach her to be hardened against men and love, to be the woman Miss Havisham wished she had been when she was jilted on her wedding day. However, this plan backfires because it makes Estella so cold-hearted that she cannot love even Miss Havisham, her adopted mother.

Pip is in love with Estella throughout the novel, and it is this love that motivates him to work at being a gentleman. However, Estella marries Drummle, a fellow student at Matthew Pocket's whom Pip dislikes. Pip never falls in love with anyone else and eventually he learns that Estella has been widowed. Pip meets Estella again at the ruins of Satis House and they reconnect.



Miss Havisham

Miss Havisham is the daughter of a rich man who once ran a thriving brewery. However, after her father's death, Miss Havisham finds herself left with a half-brother who has spent all his inheritance. Miss Havisham cuts her brother off, and this causes him to scheme with a con artist to take more of Miss Havisham's money. The con artist seduces Miss Havisham and promises to marry her, while convincing her to give him money for multiple business plans that are nothing more than veiled attempts to steal from her. In the end, the con artist leaves Miss Havisham the day of the wedding because he is already married and cannot enter into another.

Miss Havisham's world ends the day of her wedding. Miss Havisham leaves everything as it was in the moment she learned of her fiance's abandonment. Miss Havisham stops the clocks, wears her wedding dress constantly, and even leaves the wedding cake to rot on a banquet table. Miss Havisham then adopts a child whom she teaches to hate men and to harden her heart to love, a lesson that leaves Miss Havisham full of regret when she realizes that her adopted daughter does not love even her. In the end, Miss Havisham is wracked with guilt and regret, a fact that causes her to burn herself and die of a broken heart.

Biddy

Biddy is a young orphan girl who lives with the Wopsle's due to some unknown connection to the family. Biddy cares for Mr. Wopsle's elderly aunt and helps run her small store out of her parlor. The aunt oversees a small school, but often sleeps during these lessons. For this reason, Pip turns to Biddy for help with his own education because she knows enough writing and math to run the store.

After Mrs. Joe is injured and Mr. Wopsle's aunt dies, Biddy moves in with the Gargerys to care for Mrs. Joe. When Pip leaves, he leaves Biddy with instructions to teach Joe how to read and write so that he might join Pip on his new property someday. In the end, Biddy does teach Joe, but instead of leaving his small forge, Joe marries Biddy and finds happiness in domestic life that he has never had before.

Herbert Pocket

Herbert Pocket is the son of Matthew Pocket, Pip's tutor. Herbert is also the pale young man Pip ran into at Miss Havisham's on his second visit and promptly beat up in a mismatched boxing duel. Later, when Pip comes to London to work with Matthew Pocket, he becomes roommates with Herbert. Pip and Herbert will become best friends, and it will be Herbert Pip will turn to when his benefactor, Abel Magwitch, shows up and needs to be snuck out of the country.

Pip commits an act of kindness in connection with Herbert. Pip can see that Herbert's parents are not set up to help him out financially, but that Herbert wants to find a



situation so that he can marry his sweetheart, Clara. For this reason, Pip arranges through Wemmick to buy a partnership for Herbert through a new shipping company. When Pip learns that his fortune will soon disappear, he turns to Miss Havisham to complete the deal for Herbert. In the end, Pip goes to work for the same company as a clerk, eventually working his way up to a third partnership.

Mr. Jaggers

Mr. Jaggers is a lawyer who represents both Miss Havisham in her financial and other legal dealings, as well as the criminals of London's poor. Mr. Jaggers has a reputation in London of being able to win even the most unwinnable cases. This reputation is built on the case of Molly, his housekeeper. Molly was accused of killing her man's lover, a woman much larger than herself. Mr. Jaggers used the fact that Molly could appear small and docile in clean clothes to prove that she could not possibly have had the strength to kill a woman as large as the victim. However, Mr. Jaggers hid the fact that Molly has an incredibly strong wrist, something he is not loathe to show his present dinner guests.

Pip eventually discovers that Molly had a three-year-old child at the time of her arrest and that she told the child's father she had killed the child. While this was not true, Mr. Jaggers felt that it would be best if the child disappeared. Due to the fact that Mr. Jaggers had promised Miss Havisham he would find her a female child to raise, he decided to take the child from Molly in exchange for taking her case. This child is Estella.

Mr. Wemmick

Mr. Wemmick is Mr. Jaggers' clerk. In the office, Mr. Wemmick is a tough, by-the-rules clerk. However, outside of the office, Pip is pleased to discover that Mr. Wemmick is really a laid back, gentle man who has built himself a castle to house himself and his profoundly deaf father. Mr. Wemmick often helps Pip when he finds himself in trouble, including helping to set up the partnership for Herbert and warning Pip of danger when Mr. Magwitch comes to stay with him. In the end, Pip and Wemmick are close friends. Pip even stands up for Mr. Wemmick as his best friend when he marries his longtime lover, Miss Skiffins.

Abel Magwitch aka Abel Provis

The first time Pip meets Abel Magwitch, he is seven years old and playing alone in the cemetery. Abel is a convict who has recently escaped from the Hulks and is in desperate need of food and a file to remove his leg-iron. Pip provides these, but Magwitch is quickly caught by the soldiers that same night. Magwitch can see that Pip did nothing to cause him to be caught and he realizes that Pip might get in trouble for the stolen food; therefore, he tells the soldiers in front of Joe that he stole the food from the blacksmith's house. Later, Magwitch sends a fellow convict to Pip's village to give Pip some money.



After Pip has gone to London and become a gentleman, he learns that his benefactor is Abel Magwitch. Magwitch was given some money and property in New South Wales by his deceased master. Later, Abel grew the property until he was worth a great deal of money. With this money, Magwitch contacted Jaggers and asked him to turn Pip into a gentleman and to set it up so that Pip would inherit all his property. Magwitch has done this because he once had a little girl the same age as Pip and wants Pip to have all he could not give his own daughter. Unfortunately, Magwitch comes to England with all his property and money in a wallet that is confiscated by the English crown when he is arrested for returning to England after having been expelled for life.



Objects/Places

Tickler

Tickler is a cane Mrs. Joe uses to beat both Pip and Joe whenever they do something wrong or she is angry.

Chaise-Cart

Mr. Pumblechook is a man of some means due to being single and having his own corn seed business. Mrs. Joe treats Mr. Pumblechook like royalty because of the respect his means can bring to her. Mrs. Joe often goes into town on market days to help Mr. Pumblechook and he will bring her home in his chaise-cart rather than make her walk.

Leg-Irons

The prisoners in the Hulks wear leg-irons. Abel Magwitch is still wearing leg-irons when Pip first meets him, but manages to get them off with a file Pip brings him from Joe's forge. Later, Orlick finds these leg-irons and keeps them for many years before using them to hit Mrs. Joe over the head, leaving her permanently disabled.

Wedding Cake

Miss Havisham has left the wedding cake from her incomplete wedding on a banquet table in a room of her house. The cake has rotted and attracted a great many bugs and rodents. The cake remains in place until the day Miss Havisham is burned and the cake is moved aside to make room for her on the table, exactly as she once told Pip she would be laid out upon her death.

Wedding Dress

From the day of her failed wedding until the day she is burned, Miss Havisham wears her wedding dress.

Mr. Provis' Wallet

Mr. Provis comes to England with a wallet filled with money and papers for his properties in New South Wales. Mr. Provis tries to give this wallet to Pip, but Pip refuses to take it. Later, the wallet is confiscated by the crown when Mr. Provis, aka Mr. Abel Magwitch, is arrested.



Note from Anonymous

While arranging to get Mr. Provis out of the country, Pip receives a note from an anonymous author who knows things Pip thought he had hidden well. Pip returns to his home village to face this note writer only to discover it is Orlick and that he plans to kill Pip. However, Herbert finds this anonymous note and comes to Pip's rescue.

The Hulks

The Hulks are large prison ships that are moored in the river near the village where Pip lives. From time to time, the villagers hear the guns firing on the Hulks, an announcement that means someone has escaped the ships.

Wemmick's Castle

Wemmick has taken a small cottage and turned it into something resembling a castle, complete with a moat and drawbridge. This castle shows Wemmick's more relaxed, playful character that is only revealed when he is away from Mr. Jaggers' office.

Joe's Forge

Joe has a forge behind his home in the small village in the marshes. This is where Pip grows up and becomes an apprentice for four years before learning of his anonymous benefactor.

Satis House

Satis House is Miss Havisham's home. Satis means enough. Estella eventually inherits the house, which is torn down and the property sold.

Rochester aka the market-town

Rochester, or the market-town, is a large country town near Pip's village where Miss Havisham has her home. Pip returns here multiple times after going to London to become a gentleman, but he rarely makes the trip to his village to see Joe.

London

London is a large city during this time period that is west of Pip's village. Pip moves to London when he learns of his benefactor in order to study with a tutor, Matthew Pocket.



Themes

Ambition

From an early age, Pip comes to understand how uneducated he is and how important education can be. Pip and Joe talk about what it is like to be common and how to become uncommon. Pip wants to be uncommon. When Pip begins going to Satis House and visiting with Miss Havisham, he becomes acutely aware of his poverty and his lack of education through the teasing and cruelty of Estella. For this reason, Pip's desire to become more than just an uneducated blacksmith begins to overwhelm him. When he is apprenticed to Joe, he sees it as a dark time in his life and spends the next four years a miserable young man who has no means to better himself.

Pip learns about his anonymous benefactor and immediately jumps to the conclusion that Miss Havisham has decided to turn Pip into a gentleman so that he might marry Estella. Pip is so excited by this and by the idea of becoming educated that he quickly rushes to London without thinking about what his leaving will do to Joe and Biddy. Both Joe and Biddy are heartbroken to see him leave, Joe because he sees Pip as his son and Biddy because she had some romantic interest in him. However, Pip walks away from them and refuses to look back because he is so determined to better his station in life.

Ambition pushes Pip; it pushes him to make himself into someone he is not. However, it also leaves Pip alone and with an education but no money to back it up. Pip finds himself lost in the world without anyone but the two dear people he left in his past. Unfortunately, Pip comes to see the value of Joe and Biddy too late, coming home to find that they are moving on with their lives without him by marrying one another. In the end, Pip comes to understand friendship and love in a way that he might not have if he had never helped a convict in the cemetery on a cold Christmas morning.

Unrequited Love

Miss Havisham was once in love. Miss Havisham's lover was a charming man named Compeyson, a young man who swept her off her feet in a way that other men had failed to do. However, Compeyson turned out to be a con man who was using her to steal bits and pieces of her fortune for her brother. When Miss Havisham learns of this deceit on her wedding day, she closes down her houses in the moment of the discovery and lives the rest of her life with a bitter heart. Miss Havisham shares this bitterness with her adopted daughter, Estella, and teaches her to scorn all men and romantic love. However, this lesson is learned too well and Estella is unable to love her adopted mother.

Even as Miss Havisham turns her back on everything having to do with love and teaches Estella to do the same, Pip comes into the house full of innocence and love in



his heart. Pip falls deeply in love with Estella, something Miss Havisham sees and encourages so that Estella might break his heart. Estella does break his heart, but when she does, Miss Havisham finally sees what it is she has done to Estella and she begins to regret her impact on Pip. In the end, Miss Havisham attempts suicide by lighting herself on fire, eventually dying of a broken heart about the same time her ex-lover dies in a river outside of London.

Guilt

Guilt is a huge motivator for many of the characters of this book. The first time guilt is introduced is when the reader learns that Mrs. Joe beats both Joe and Pip and that Joe rarely does anything to stop these beatings. Joe explains this to Pip twice in the narrative. In his first explanation, Joe tells Pip that his own father was an abusive man and his mother often took him away to escape her husband, but Joe's father always found them. In the end, Joe watched how his father's abuse changed his mother and damaged her. Joe has decided that he will not beat his own wife in order to protect her from the harm that changed Joe's mother. The second time Joe talks about the abuse from Mrs. Joe, he tells Pip that he has been consumed with guilt that he did not try harder to distract Mrs. Joe from Pip and to turn her anger on him. Joe tells Pip that he realized that his interference only made Mrs. Joe angrier with Pip; therefore, he decided he should limit his attempts to distract Mrs. Joe to make the beatings less. This guilt has stayed with Joe even after Mrs. Joe's injury and death. It is Joe's reason for caring for Pip in his illness late in the novel and in paying off his most pressing debts.

Guilt also impacts Pip. When Pip goes to London and becomes aware of Joe's discomfort in Pip's new situation, he vows to visit Joe in his home village to save Joe the embarrassment. However, Pip fails to ever visit Joe in the village, despite his promises to himself and later to Biddy. This guilt is increased when Pip comes to realize that Mr. Pumblechook has taken credit for raising Pip in his early years, stealing from Joe all the credit he deserves for putting up with Mrs. Joe and for teaching Pip how to be less common.

Guilt also begins to motivate Miss Havisham late in the novel. Miss Havisham, hurt by the callous actions of her fiancé, has raised her adopted daughter, Estella, to reject everything having to do with men and romantic love. This comes back to haunt Miss Havisham, first when Estella refuses to love her as well, and later when Miss Havisham witnesses Pip's attempt to convince Estella not to marry Drummle. Miss Havisham is so consumed with guilt that she begs Pip for forgiveness. Later, Miss Havisham nearly burns to death in an attempt to end her misery. Miss Havisham dies of a broken heart, most likely brought on by her guilt and her regrets.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The main character, Pip, is the narrator. The novel is written in such a way that the reader is aware that Pip is looking back on his life and telling a story that he is not always proud of. Pip, as an adult looking back, often makes comments about the people who populate the novel as well as the events that take place in the novel. As an example, when Pip discusses Joe, he will often express regret for his treatment of him and suggest that there were things he might have done differently if he had known where his story would take him.

The point of view of the novel keeps the narration strictly with one character. This reduces the confusion that often comes in with modern novels when multiple characters narrate the action of the plot. This point of view also allows the author's voice to come through at multiple points, warning the reader of important facts about to be revealed and to expand on a character's personality by discussing how interactions should have been different or how a character's actions impacted other characters at later points in the novel. For this reason, the point of view of this novel works well with the plot and helps to create a well rounded story.

Setting

The novel begins in the early 1800s in a small village outside of London that has built up along the marshes. Pip lives in this small village with his sister, Mrs. Joe, and her husband, Joe Gargery. As the novel continues, the setting expands to include the city of Rochester, referred to as market-town in these early chapters, where Miss Havisham lives with her adopted daughter, Estella. Finally the novel moves into the busy streets of London, as Pip moves there to become a gentleman.

The setting of the novel creates a world in which a poor boy is stuck in a certain fate unless something comes along to drastically change his circumstances. England was still a place ruled by the caste system during the time period in which this novel was set, suggesting that a blacksmith's child would always be uneducated and dirty. However, as the setting of this novel expands, expanding the child's horizons, the child's prospects in life begin to expand. Pip first meets Miss Havisham and she shows him what it might be like to be educated and wealthy while keeping those things out of his reach. Later, Pip receives the wealth necessary to fulfill his desires, taking him into the large city of London, a world so drastically different from his home village that his beloved brother-in-law, Joe, refuses to visit him but once.

The setting of this novel fits with the plot of the novel because of the way in which the author uses it. The time period is important because it is a time in English history that makes it possible for a young blacksmith's apprentice to aspire to greater things and



achieve them with the help of a benefactor. At the same time, the setting of a small village that grows slowly larger with a move into the larger market-town and finally London seems to parallel the changes taking place in Pip's life, thereby working together with the plot to create a fuller, rounded story. For this reason, the setting of this novel is essential to the overall plot.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is formal English. In the beginning of the novel, the narration is of a language that suggests education in the narrator. However, the dialogue denotes the lack of education among the characters who fill these early chapters. As the novel continues to develop, Pip meets educated people whose dialogue is less grammatically incorrect. This is used to show the reader the differences between Pip and his people and the wealthier people he comes to know. Late in the novel, this difference is revealed in a jarring comparison between Joe's uneducated speech and the speech of the people Pip now calls his friends.

The author of this book uses language not only to describe in beautiful detail the world in which Pip lives, but also to show the contrast between the uneducated people of Pip's birth and the educated people he aspires to become one of. While the formal language of this novel might be difficult for some modern readers to comprehend and follow, it is a language common to the time period in which the novel is set as well as the time period in which the author wrote it. It is a language that is filled with intelligence and simplicity that helps to tell a complete story that has endured over a hundred years.

Structure

The novel is divided into three parts, the three stages of Pip's expectations. Each part contains nineteen chapters. The chapters vary in length, some longer than ten pages, while others are only two or three pages. The novel is told in both exposition and dialogue, with long passages that contain discussions between the narrator and the reader that explain the main characters' actions or motivations.

The novel has one main plot and multiple subplots. The main plot follows the life of Pip, a young orphan, as he grows up in a small village and then becomes the beneficiary of an anonymous person who desires to see him become a gentleman. One of the subplots reveals the relationship between Pip and his brother-in-law Joe Gargery, a relationship that causes both men a great deal of guilt that forces them to act in diversely separate ways. Another subplot follows the story of Miss Havisham, the man she once was to marry, and the daughter she adopted. All the plots come to a satisfactory conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip. (Chapter 1)

I fully expected to find a constable in the kitchen, waiting to take me up. But not only was there no constable there, but no discovery had yet been made of the robbery. (Chapter 4)

So, leaving word with the shopman on what day I was wanted at Miss Havisham's again, I set off on the four-mile walk to our forge, pondering as I went along, on all I had seen, and deeply revolving that I was a common laboring-boy; that my hands were coarse; that my boots were thick; that I had fallen into a despicable habit of calling knaves jacks; that I was much more ignorant than I had considered myself last night; and generally that I was in a low-lived bad way. (Chapter 8)

I could hardly have imagined dear old Joe looking so unlike himself or so like some extraordinary bird, standing, as he did, speechless, with his tuft of feathers ruffled, and his mouth open as if he wanted a worm. (Chapter 13)

Both Mr. and Mrs. Pocket had such a noticeable air of being in somebody else's hands that I wondered who really was in possession of the house and let them live there, until I found this unknown power to be the servants. (Chapter 23)

Miserably I went to bed after all, and miserably thought of Estella, and miserably dreamed that my expectations were all cancelled, and that I had to give my hand in marriage to Herbert's Clara, or play Hamlet to Miss Havisham's Ghost, before twenty thousand people, without knowing twenty words of it. (Chapter 31)

As I had grown accustomed to my expectations, I had insensibly begun to notice their effect upon myself and those around me. Their influence on my own character I disguised from my recognition as much as possible, but I knew very well that it was not all good. (Chapter 34)

It was worth any money to see Wemmick waving a salute to me from the other side of the moat, when we might have shaken hands across it with the greatest ease. (Chapter 37)

Out of such remembrances I brought into the light of the fire, a half-formed terror that it might not be safe to be shut up there with him in the dead of the wild solitary night. This dilated until it filled the room, and impelled me to take a candle and go in and look at my dreadful burden. (Chapter 39)

When I raised my face again, there was such a ghastly look upon Miss Havisham's that it impressed me, even in my passionate hurry and grief. (Chapter 44)



Mindful, then, of what we had read together, I thought of the two men who went up into the Temple to pray, and I knew there were no better words that I could say beside his bed than 'O Lord, be merciful to him a sinner. (Chapter 56)

I took her hand in mine, and we went out of the ruined place; and as the morning mists has risen long ago when I first left the forge, so the evening mists were rising now, and in all the broad expanse of tranquil light they showed to me, I saw no shadow of another parting from her. (Chapter 59)



Topics for Discussion

Topic 1

Who is Pip? Why is he known as Pip? Where does he live? Why does Pip agree to help the convict on the marshes? What does he do to help this man? What consequences does Pip expect to receive by offering this help? Does he? Why not? What does the convict do to help Pip after he is recaptured? Why is he recaptured? Why did he not run away? What does this convict do some years later to reward Pip? How is this accomplished? How does Pip learn the truth of this act? How does Pip later learn this same convict has continued to help him? How does Pip feel about these actions? For what reason? Does Pip's feelings change later? Why?

Topic 2

Who is Joe Gargery? Why did Joe marry Pip's sister? Why does Joe say that he does not fight back against Mrs. Joe when she beats and abuses him? Why does Joe continue to stay with his abusive wife? What happens to Mrs. Joe that changes Joe's circumstances? Why does Joe not ask for money when Jaggers comes to take Pip away? Is he due money? Why does Joe become angry when Jaggers continually questions him about this money? What does this say about Joe's personality? Why does Joe allow Pip to go to London? Why does Joe say he will only visit Pip the one time? Why does Pip never visit Joe?

Topic 3

Who is Estella? Why does Pip fall in love with her? Does she reciprocate his feelings? Why does Estella allow Pip to kiss her cheek at one point? What has Miss Havisham tell Estella about men and love? How does the reader know that Estella has learned this lesson? Why does Estella marry Drummle? Does she love him? How does Drummle treat her? Is it a happy marriage? How does it end? Who is Estella's real mother? Who is her real father? How does Pip learn of this? How does this change Estella's statements of Pip early in the novel for the reader? Why does Pip never tell Estella the truth about her birth? What might the impact of this truth have been for Estella? What does this say about Pip's personality?

Topic 4

Who is Miss Havisham? Why has she stopped all the clocks in her house? Why does she wear a wedding dress? Why is there a single shoe on her dressing table? Why is there a wedding cake in her banquet room? Who are Arthur and Compeyson? What is unusual about Arthur's death? Who is the woman with the shroud? How does Compeyson die? Is this an appropriate death for what he has done? What finally makes



Miss Havisham see the error of how she has treated Estella? Why does Miss Havisham repeatedly ask Pip to write out his forgiveness of her? What does Miss Havisham think she has done to Pip?

Topic 5

Who is Wemmick? Why does he act one way at his office and a different way at home? Why does Wemmick stress to Pip that the two places should be kept separate? How does Pip feel about this? Who lives with Wemmick? How does Mr. Jaggers learn of this living arrangement? Who does Wemmick marry? Who is his best man? What is unusual about the wedding? What does Wemmick help Pip do for Herbert? How does Wemmick help with Mr. Provis? Does this help backfire? Explain.

Topic 6

Who is Orlick? Why does he dislike Pip? Why does he lure Pip back to the little village? What does Orlick accuse Pip of having done to him? What does Orlick confess he has done to Mrs. Joe? For what reason? Who saves Pip from Orlick? What is the point of this set of scenes in the overall plot of the novel?

Topic 7

Who is Biddy? What is her relationship to Pip? How does she feel for Pip? How does Pip feel for her? If not for Estella, might Pip have felt different for Biddy? Who does Biddy eventually marry? How does Pip feel about this? How was Biddy Pip's first teacher? Who else does Biddy teach to read and write? Where does Biddy go after the death of Mrs. Joe?

Topic 8

What are great expectations? How does Pip learn that he has great expectations? What happens to these expectations? For what reason? Could Pip have done something differently to prevent the result of these expectations? Was Pip's education and training as a gentleman for nothing? What happens to Pip in the end of the novel? Does this make him feel as though he has achieved his great expectations? Explain.