

Charles Dickens

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS



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Readers

Young Adult



# Book brief

- 1 *Great Expectations* is a novel by English author, Charles Dickens, first published in serial form in Dickens' magazine called 'All the Year Round' from December 1860 to August 1861.
- 2 The novel is a 'Coming of Age' story about an orphan boy, Pip.
- 3 It is set in London and Kent in the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4 Told by Pip himself, the story follows his life from when he's a child until he becomes an adult.
- 5 Main themes include rich and poor and good winning over bad.

*Charles Dickens*

# Great Expectations

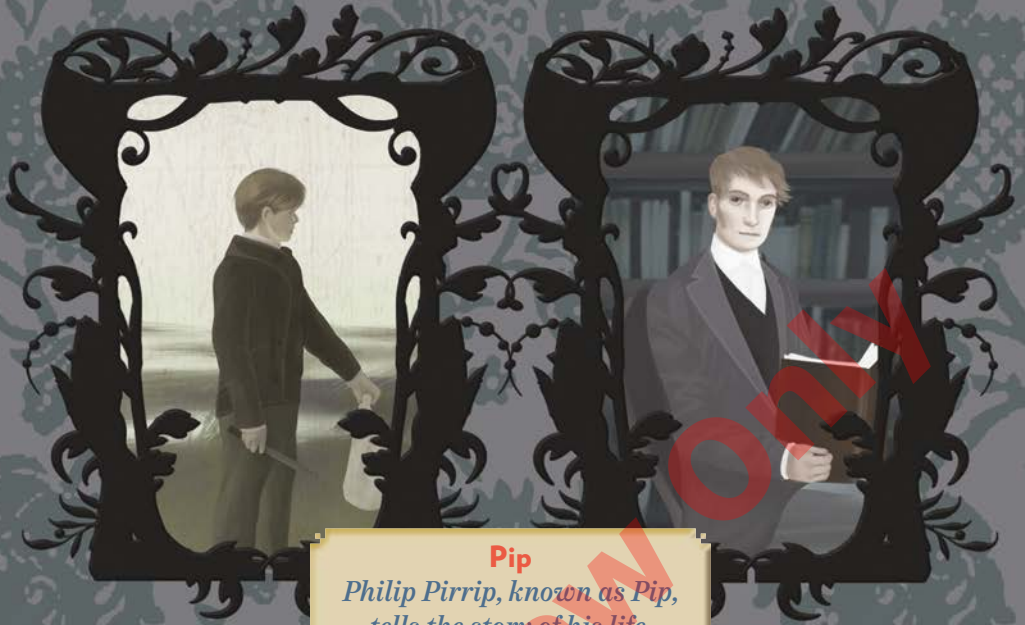
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## Contents

|     |                 |                                        |
|-----|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| 6   | Main Characters |                                        |
| 8   | Before you Read |                                        |
| 10  | Chapter One     | The Cheese, the Chicken and the Brandy |
| 18  | Activities      |                                        |
| 22  | Chapter Two     | Estella and Miss Havisham              |
| 30  | Activities      |                                        |
| 34  | Chapter Three   | My Expectations                        |
| 42  | Activities      |                                        |
| 46  | Chapter Four    | My Life in London                      |
| 54  | Activities      |                                        |
| 58  | Chapter Five    | I Meet Estella Again                   |
| 66  | Activities      |                                        |
| 70  | Chapter Six     | The Visitor                            |
| 78  | Activities      |                                        |
| 82  | Chapter Seven   | Who is Abel Magwitch?                  |
| 90  | Activities      |                                        |
| 94  | Chapter Eight   | The Strange Message                    |
| 102 | Activities      |                                        |
| 106 | Chapter Nine    | Escape!                                |
| 116 | Activities      |                                        |
| 118 | Focus on...     | Charles Dickens                        |
| 120 | Focus on...     | Rich and Poor                          |
| 122 | Focus on...     | CLIL History:<br>Victorian Justice     |
| 124 | Focus on...     | Dickens Today                          |
| 126 | Test Yourself   |                                        |
| 127 | Syllabus        |                                        |

## Main Characters



### Pip

*Philip Pirrip, known as Pip,  
tells the story of his life.*



### Estella

*Miss Havisham's beautiful  
but cold adopted daughter.*



**Joe Gargery**

*Pip's sister's husband,  
he's a kind blacksmith.*



**Mrs Joe Gargery**

*Pip's older sister and Joe's wife,  
she often gets angry.*



**Miss Havisham**

*A strange, rich,  
unmarried woman.*



**Abel Magwitch**

*A convict Pip meets  
at the start of the story.*



**Mr Jaggers**

*A lawyer  
in London.*



**Orlick**

*He works with Joe but he isn't very nice  
and he doesn't like Joe's wife or Pip.*

## Vocabulary and Writing

**1 A** Solve these anagrams to find seven words we use for reporting speech. Then put them into the sentences in the Past Simple.

- |   |         |        |                                                                |
|---|---------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | ycr     | c..... | 'Please, Sir. Don't,' she .....,<br>but Mr Jagers didn't stop. |
| 2 | ksa     | a..... | 'What's that?' I .....                                         |
| 3 | ysa     | s..... | 'That means another convict has got away,'<br>..... Joe.       |
| 4 | ltle    | t..... | I didn't know and I ..... her so.                              |
| 5 | kthni   | t..... | She ..... I was nothing.                                       |
| 6 | xlpinae | e..... | Mr Jagers ..... all he knew.                                   |
| 7 | wsaren  | a..... | 'Yes, I know,' he .....                                        |

**1 B** Match the pictures below with the name of the material they're made of on the right.



glass  
porcelain  
iron  
cotton  
paper  
wool

**1 C** Use the words in exercise 1B to complete the sentences below.

- In winter, I like wearing heavy jumpers made of .....
- In summer, I wear lighter clothes like ..... shorts.
- Some people prefer to read e-books instead of ..... ones.
- The ..... of that window is so dirty that you can't see outside!
- They use ..... to build bridges because it's a very strong metal.
- Modern dolls aren't made of ..... anymore.

- 1 D** Adjectives. Match the adjectives from box A with their opposites from box B. Use your dictionary to help you.

| A                                      | B               |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> happy       | a uncomfortable |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> dirty       | b clean         |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> horrible    | c right         |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> old         | d new           |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> tall        | e short         |
| 6 <input type="checkbox"/> old         | f untidy        |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> comfortable | g ugly          |
| 8 <input type="checkbox"/> wrong       | h nice          |
| 9 <input type="checkbox"/> beautiful   | i young         |
| 10 <input type="checkbox"/> tidy       | j sad           |

- 1 E** Put adjectives from 1D into the sentences below. More than one answer is possible.

- 1 This bed is too hard. It's very .....
- 2 'That answer isn't right, it's ....., ' said Biddy.
- 3 There were things all over the floor – the room was very .....
- 4 There was an ..... smile on his face.
- 5 Biddy is a very ..... girl. She's always helping people.
- 6 Orlick bullied Pip. He was ..... to him.

## Speaking

21st Century Skills

- 2** Think about people you know who are happy, tall or tidy. Tell your partner.



# The Cheese, the Chicken and the Brandy

- 2 My father's family name was Pirrip and my first name was Philip. So Philip Pirrip was my full name. It was very difficult for me to say when I was a child. So, I decided to call myself Pip and everybody called me Pip.

I lived with my sister and her husband, Joe. Everyone called my sister Mrs Joe. We lived in a village by the marshes\* near the River Thames. I don't remember my parents because they died when I was a baby, so I was an orphan\*. I often went to the church and visited their graves\*. I wasn't very happy as a boy. My life with my sister was hard.

One day, I was outside the church when a horrible man jumped out from behind the graves. He was wearing dirty, old grey clothes and had an iron chain\* on his ankles. He took hold of me so I couldn't move. 'Keep still, or I'll kill you,' he said.

'Please don't hurt me, Sir,' I cried\*.

'What's your name? Where do you live?'

'Pip, Sir. I live with my sister and Joe the blacksmith\*.'

'Joe the blacksmith, you say. Right. If you want to live, you must bring me some food and a file\*. If you do that, I won't kill you.'

He let me go and I promised\* to bring the things to him the next day. I ran home, I was very afraid.

**marsh** an area of very wet land

**orphan** a child whose parents are dead

**grave** a place where dead people are put in the ground

**chain** see page 13, the man has a chain around his ankles

**cry** (here) shout

**blacksmith** someone who makes things from metal

**file** something you use to work with metal

**promise** when you say you'll do something in the future

The River Thames, England's longest river that goes through London, was a very dirty river in the first half of the 19th century.

## Great Expectations

Joe was waiting for me when I got home. 'Quick! Hide\*! Mrs Joe's looking for you. She's got her stick\* with her.'

My sister, Mrs Joe Gargery, was twenty years older than me. She was a hard, violent\* woman. She often hit me and she hit her husband, Joe. She had black hair and was tall and thin. Joe was tall and blond and a kind man. He had a kind face and I liked him a lot.

I tried to hide behind the door, but I wasn't in time. 'Where have you been, you young monkey?' she shouted while she hit me.

'I only went to visit the graves,' I cried.

Then she picked me up and threw me at Joe. He caught me and put me behind him, protecting\* me.

'You'll send *me* to my grave with all the worry you give me.'

Then she started to make the tea. I was hungry, but I knew I needed to save my bread and butter for the man outside the church. So, secretly\*, and while no-one was looking, I put it in my pocket.

After tea, I was sitting by the fire. In the distance\* we heard the sound of a great big gun\* twice.

'What's that?' I asked.

'That means another convict\* has escaped\*', said Joe. 'One escaped last night. I heard the gun after the sun went down. That means another one has escaped from the transports.'

'Transports, Joe? What are the transports?'

'Questions, questions you horrible boy,' said Mrs Joe. 'Transports are prison\* ships. The prison ships take the convicts to Australia. And people who kill, steal and *ask too many questions* go on them. Now that's enough of your questions. Go off to bed.'

Between 1788 and 1868, Britain sent about 162,000 convicts to Australia because the prisons in Britain were too full.

**hide** go somewhere where nobody can see you

**stick** a piece of wood

**violent** someone who's violent hurts other people or breaks things

**protect** stop from being hurt

**secretly** so that no-one knows

**in the distance** far away

**gun** 

**convict** a prisoner

**escape** run away (here from prison)

**prison** where people are sent if they do something against the law



I went to bed with a heavy heart. I was worried about my meeting with the convict.

In the morning, I got out of bed very quietly and went downstairs to the pantry\*. All the time I could hear voices in my head shouting ‘Robber\*! Wake up Mrs Joe, he’s stealing from you!’

I felt terrible. The pantry was full of good things. We were expecting\* visitors for a special Christmas lunch. Quickly, I took some cheese, some more bread, some brandy and some roast chicken. I filled the brandy bottle with soapy water and put everything in my bag. I opened the door to Joe’s forge\* and took a file. Then I ran outside into the wet morning air. I ran to the marshes and the river, where the convict was waiting for me.

Before I got to the river, I saw the convict sitting outside the church. He was sleeping. I touched\* his arm, to wake him up. But it wasn’t *my* convict, it was another man. He was wearing dirty, old grey clothes too and he had an iron chain on his ankles. Actually, everything about him was the same as my convict. He jumped up, tried to hit me and then walked slowly off into the distance. I watched him go and then went to the river. There, I found the right man. He was very cold and hungry. He drank the brandy very quickly, while eating pieces of cheese and the chicken. All the time he was looking around nervously. The food was disappearing\* quickly.

‘Are you going to leave any food for the other man?’ I asked.

‘What other man?’

‘The one like you. I saw him near the church just now. He looked very hungry too.’

‘Did he have a cut on his face?’

**pantry** a room where you keep food  
(an old word)

**robber** someone who steals

**expect** (here) believe that someone will  
arrive soon

**forge** a place where people work with metal

**touch** you touch with your hands

**disappear** if something disappears, you  
can’t see it anymore



‘Yes, he did.’

‘Tell me now. Which way did he go? I’ll find him. I must find him. Now, give me the file. I need to free my legs so I can run.’

\*\*\*

There’ll be a policeman waiting for me when I get home, I thought. But it was all quiet and everything seemed normal. I was very pleased.

Mrs Joe was in a bad temper\*, which wasn’t very unusual. She was busy cleaning and cooking and preparing for our Christmas visitors. Joe and I had our breakfast of bread and milk, then we went to wash and change our clothes for church. It was strange, but when Joe wore his work clothes he looked\* quite normal. But, when he wore his best clothes for Sunday, he never really looked quite right. Joe came out of his room in his dark suit and clean white shirt, looking uncomfortable. I looked at him for a minute and decided that his Sunday clothes weren’t the wrong size for him, *he* was the wrong size for his clothes. My best clothes too, were always uncomfortable. Perhaps my sister wanted them that way. Every time we bought new best clothes, they were always too tight\*. It was always difficult for me to move in them.

Joe and I went off to church. My sister was too busy with the Christmas preparations so she couldn’t go to church. ‘I’ll think of you,’ she said.

All the time at church, I worried about Mrs Joe and the things from the pantry - the cheese, the chicken and the brandy. My stomach turned over and over. ‘Surely\* something’s going to happen,’ I said to myself.

When we got home from church, everything was ready for the

**be in a bad temper** be angry  
**look** give the idea that  
**tight** if something is too tight, you can’t move

**surely** we say this if we’re sure something is going to happen

## Great Expectations

Christmas visitors. Mrs Joe was dressed and ready. The table was all prepared and looked beautiful. The front door wasn't locked\*. It was usually locked all year and we never used it. Mrs Joe was still in a bad temper and shouted at us. We followed all her instructions, nervously.

Soon, the visitors arrived. I opened the front door. I pretended\* that it was perfectly normal for me to use that door.

Mr Wopsle was the first to arrive. He helped at the church and was often very boring. Mr and Mrs Hubble were next. Last of all was Uncle Pumblechook. I say Uncle, but I was never allowed\* to call him that. Only Mrs Joe could call him *Uncle*.

'Mrs Joe,' said Uncle Pumblechook, 'I've brought you a bottle of Sherry wine and a bottle of Port wine as a present for Christmas and to thank you for your invitation.'

Every year he said exactly the same thing.

'Oh, *Un-cle Pum-ble-chook!* This is kind.'

And every Christmas Day, like this Christmas Day, he answered, 'It's nothing, my dear.'

We sat down to lunch and Mr Wopsle said a prayer\*. He finished, as usual, with the words, 'And we must be extremely\* thankful.'

Then he turned to me. 'Do you hear that, boy? You must be extremely thankful, especially\* to your sister. You're a terrible little boy. She's so good to you.'

'Yes, Mr Pumblechook,' I answered quietly, thinking that he was probably very right.

All the time I was still worrying about the things in the pantry – the cheese, the chicken and the brandy. And then the terrible moment came.

**locked** closed with a key

**pretend** act like something is true when it isn't

**allowed** you can do something, someone lets you

**prayer** words you use to talk to God

**extremely** very

**especially** above all

‘Have a little brandy, Uncle Pumblechook,’ said my sister.

She gave him a large glass.

I held the table. I was very frightened\*. He’s going to drink it, I thought. He’ll know it’s soapy. He’ll say it’s soapy. Everyone will know it’s me. Then I watched in horror as he took a large drink from the glass. His face went red, then purple, then red again and he jumped up from the table and ran out of the door. Joe and Mrs Joe went to help him.

‘Soap! Mrs Joe, there’s soap in here!’ he said.

‘But how did *soap* get in there?’ said my sister.

She gave him some water and he came back to the table. We all continued our lunch. I was waiting for my sister to find the chicken was missing. And then the moment came.

‘You really must taste my beautiful roast chicken.’

And she went to the pantry to get it.

I couldn’t stay there anymore. I jumped up and I ran to the door. I wanted to escape. I opened the door to run out and saw a policeman and some soldiers\* outside. The policeman was carrying handcuffs\*. ‘They’ve come for me!’ I thought. ‘I stole the food and now they’ve come for me.’

But Mrs Joe didn’t say anything about the brandy or the chicken and the policeman simply\* asked for Joe’s help. He needed help to mend\* the handcuffs and was looking for help to find the convicts. I couldn’t believe my luck.

As soon as the handcuffs were mended, Joe and I went with the soldiers to look for the convicts. ‘I hope we don’t find them,’ I said quietly to Joe.

**frightened** afraid

**soldier** a person who goes to war

**handcuffs** 

**simply** only, just

**mend** put something back together if it’s broken

## Great Expectations

But then, in the distance, we heard shouting and splashing\*. The soldiers ran towards the noise, it was the two convicts. They were fighting\* in the marshes. My convict was holding the other man and trying to stop him running away.

‘I’ve got him! I’ve got him,’ shouted my man to the soldiers. ‘Here! I’ve caught him!’

‘He tried to kill me! He tried to kill me!’ shouted the other convict.

My convict then saw me. ‘Is the blacksmith here?’ he said.

‘Yes, I am,’ said Joe. ‘What do you want from me?’

‘Nothing. I only have to say sorry. I took some food from your house last night. I was hungry, so I’m sorry.’

All my worries were gone. Joe, seeing that I was tired from the evening’s excitement, picked me up and carried me home on his back.



**splash** make a noise with water

**fight** hit each other

## After-Reading Activities • Chapter One

### Reading **A2 KEY**

**1 Choose the best answer – A, B or C.**

**1** Who does Pip live with?

- ☐ **A** His mother and father.
- ☐ **B** His sister and brother-in-law.
- ☐ **C** His brother and sister-in-law.

**2** What's Joe's job?

- ☐ **A** He's a blacksmith.
- ☐ **B** He's a soldier.
- ☐ **C** He's a convict.

**3** Why does Pip take food from the pantry?

- ☐ **A** To give it to the convict.
- ☐ **B** Because he's very hungry.
- ☐ **C** Because the chicken looks very good.

**4** How many convicts does Pip meet on the marshes?

- ☐ **A** One.
- ☐ **B** Two.
- ☐ **C** Three.

**5** Why doesn't Mrs Joe go to church on Christmas morning?

- ☐ **A** Because she's busy with her Christmas preparations.
- ☐ **B** Because she's busy with her reading.
- ☐ **C** Because she doesn't like going to church.

**6** Why does Mr Pumblechook have a problem with his drink?

- ☐ **A** He doesn't want it.
- ☐ **B** He prefers water.
- ☐ **C** It's got soap in it.

**7** Why do the policeman and the soldiers come to Pip's house?

- ☐ **A** To talk to Pip about stealing the food.
- ☐ **B** To look for the convicts.
- ☐ **C** To ask Joe to mend the handcuffs.

## Vocabulary

- 2 Read the descriptions of some things you can eat. What's the word for each one? The first letter is already there. There's one space for each letter in the word.

- This vegetable is long and orange.  
 1 People make this from milk.  
 2 This vegetable makes you cry.  
 3 This vegetable grows under the ground.  
 4 In the UK, people often eat this with chips.  
 5 Americans often eat this at Thanksgiving.

c a r r o t

c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

o \_ \_ \_ \_

p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

f \_ \_ \_

t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Speaking

21st Century Skills

- 3 A What indoor activities do you do in your free time? Tick the box.

- ☐ play cards
- ☐ play chess
- ☐ play board games
- ☐ play videogames
- ☐ do crosswords
- ☐ do sudoku
- ☐ learn a language
- ☐ listen to music
- ☐ watch TV
- ☐ read books
- ☐ other .....



- 3 B Work in pairs.  
 Tell your partner about your free time activities and say why you like them.

