

illustrated
READERS

CHARLES DICKENS

retold by Virginia Evans

Great Expectations



Express Publishing



Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens is one of the most famous writers in the English language. He was born in Portsmouth in southern England on 7th February, 1812.

He was one of eight children and his family were very poor. When Dickens was ten years old his family moved to London, where Dickens had to leave school suddenly, as his father was sent to prison for debt. As the family had no money, Dickens was forced at the age of eleven to work in a boot polish factory, labelling bottles.

Yet in spite of his childhood hardships, Dickens managed to educate himself by attending Wellington House Academy in London for a short period, although he was largely self-taught. After his schooling, he spent two years as a law clerk. Then he became a reporter in

several jobs, the most notable one being for the newspaper the *Morning Chronicle*.

In 1836, Dickens published his first collection of short stories, "*Sketches by Boz*", which was followed by the humorous novel "*Pickwick Papers*". This was originally published, like much of Dickens' work, in a series of magazine episodes, before being later turned into a novel. Some of Dickens' most famous books include "*Oliver Twist*", "*A Christmas Carol*", "*David Copperfield*" and "*Great Expectations*". 1836 was also the year in which Dickens got married, and he had ten children.

Dickens was also interested in the theatre. In the last few years of his life, he gave many public readings of his books in which he would act out the stories and the parts of the characters in a one-man show. He died on 9th June 1870 and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

Read Charles Dickens' biography and answer the questions:

- 1 Where and when was Charles Dickens born?
.....
- 2 Why did he have an unhappy childhood?
.....
- 3 What jobs did he do?
.....
- 4 How did many of his works appear before they came out as novels?
.....
- 5 Apart from writing, what other interest did Dickens have?
.....
- 6 In the last years of Dicken's life, what did he do to make his books well-known?
.....





Great Expectations is one of Charles Dickens' most popular novels. It was first printed in a serialised form in the magazine *All the Year Round* between 1860 and 1861. It was an immediate success and was therefore published as a book in July 1861. It is a tale of love and adventure, with numerous twists and turns that hold our interest to the end.

The story is about an orphan called Pip, who dreams of moving up in society. A mysterious benefactor helps him to do so, but in becoming a gentleman Pip also has to go through a process of disillusionment and to learn new values.

Pip's desire for self-improvement is the main source of the novel's title. His expectations have not only to do with money, but also with moral, social and educational improvement. *Great Expectations* portrays characters from a variety of social classes, but Dickens makes it clear that a true gentleman is not identified by his money, but by his behaviour and attitudes towards others. Another important theme of the novel is that of crime, guilt and innocence. We learn that the justice of the courts does not always agree with a character's inner morality or conscience.

Film-makers have produced many different versions of *Great Expectations* over the years. Notably, the 1946 version became a screen classic, while the 1998 adaption aroused interest by setting the story in modern times.



1. THE PRISONERS

Pip lived with his sister Mrs Joe and her husband, Joe Gargery, a blacksmith. It all began one Christmas Eve, at his parents' grave in the village churchyard.



Pip got home late and his sister was angry with him.



Next morning he woke up early.

5

They're all sound asleep. I can take this pie, and get a file from Joe's workshop.



But on the way to meet the escaped prisoner ...

6



Where are you going? Come here, boy! Give me that!

I'd better run. This is a different prisoner!

7



I just met another man like you!

Hmm! I know who he is. If I see him, I'll kill him!

Back at home, they all gathered for Christmas dinner.

8



I must get these chains off. Where's the file?

Here, Sir. Can I go now?

All right, but not a word to anyone!

9



Mr. Wopsle, would you like some pie?

Oh, please, don't look for the pie!

Oh no! The police! They've come to get me!

10



KNOCK! KNOCK!

11



Where's Joe the blacksmith? We need to talk to him.



3.

PIP'S DREAM COMES TRUE

activities



Before Reading

- 1 Read the title. What do you think Pip's dream is?
- 2 What sort of dreams for the future do you have?



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and mark the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false).
 - 1 All the clocks at Satis House show twenty minutes to nine.
 - 2 Miss Havisham's bridegroom didn't arrive on the wedding day.
 - 3 Pip thinks Orlick attacked Mrs Joe.
 - 4 Mr Jaggers brings some bad news.
 - 5 Pip has no idea who is giving him the money.
- 4 Use the following words from the episode to fill the gaps in the sentences.

turn up argument expectations reveal conditions identity

 - 1 If you late for class, you will be sent home.
 - 2 You must satisfy certain to become a member of this club.
 - 3 She drew the curtains aside to the beautiful garden.
 - 4 The children had a big and now they don't speak to each other.
 - 5 Police do not yet know the of a bank robber.
 - 6 Did the film come up to your ?



After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode. Look at the pictures and tell the story to your partner.
- 6 What do you think the stopped clocks and the wedding cake show about Miss Havisham's feelings?
- 7 What compliment does Estella pay Pip, and why?
- 8 What is your impression of Orlick?
- 9 Why does the person giving Pip money not reveal their name?
- 10 How do you think Pip's expectations will change his life?





Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures. Do you think Pip is happy to live the life of a gentleman?
- 2 Look at the pictures again. Which of the following do you think are true?
 - 1 Pip travels with Joe to London.
 - 2 Pip makes a good friend in London.
 - 3 Pip is pleased to see Joe.
 - 4 Pip goes to Satis House to see Estella.



While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and answer the questions.
 - 1 Who does Pip meet in London?
 - 2 How does Pip spend his time in London?
 - 3 Who is Molly?
 - 4 Why does Joe want to see Pip?
 - 5 What does Estella tell Pip?
- 4 Correct the words in **bold**.
 - 1 Pip left for London on a **train**.
 - 2 Pip was going to share rooms with **Mr Jaggers**.
 - 3 **Joe** sent a letter to Pip.
 - 4 Joe was coming to London the following **Thursday** morning at 9 am.
 - 5 Pip thought Estella was **friendly**.



After Reading

- 5 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 Why do you think Joe calls Pip “Sir”?
- 7 Why do you think Pip doesn’t want to stay at Joe’s house?
- 8 Have you ever felt ashamed of someone? Were you justified?



Great Expectations

Pip lives in the marshland of rural England with his older sister and her husband Joe. One day he meets Magwitch, an escaped convict, who asks for his help. Then, Pip is invited by Miss Havisham, a wealthy but eccentric lady, to meet Estella, a beautiful girl whom he immediately falls in love with. How will the encounter with the convict affect Pip's life and will Estella ever return his love?

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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