

MAJOR WORKS Annotations & Information sheet

Title: Great Expectations Author: Charles Dickens Date of Publication: 1954 Genre: Social Criticism	Biographical Information about the Author
Historical & Cultural context	Golding was as born in February 1812. He lived in England. His father was very in debt. His father went to prison. He had a very big family. He became a low clerk, then a court reporter, then a novelist.
Dickens was very influenced by his time in this book. The character's rise from laborer to gentleman was similar to his experience. The time is Victorian England, where social change is ubiquitous. Everything is changing from the industrial revolution. A lot of people are moving from the country to the city.	Characteristics of the Genre
	This genre is focused on pointing out the flaws of societal functioning. Its main goal is to create a story that demonstrates the terrible fallbacks of these flaws and accentuates them sometimes very flagrantly.
Plot Summary: make a bulleted list highlighting the main events and twists of the plot, 15 items maximum	
• Pip is a young orphan living with his Joe and Mrs. Joe (his sister) in the marsh lands of Kent England and he's sitting in a cemetery looking at his parents' tombstones when a convict threatens him. • Some time later, Pip is taken by his Uncle to the home of the wealthy old woman, Miss Havisham. She is crazy. He meets the love of his life there, Estella. • Miss Havisham decides to help Pip become a common worker for his family business even though he wanted to be a business man to be worthy of Estella. • When Pip is living with his brother in law, his sister is beaten violently and becomes mute. • One day, a Pip is informed by Jaggers that someone has given Pip a large fortune. • With this new fortune and new friends, Pip becomes dissatisfied and disdainful of his old friends. He distances himself by trying to become more educated. • Pip and his new friends, such as Herbert, enjoy spending carefree as they await the arrival of Pip's fortune when he turns 21. • Mrs. Joe dies and Pip goes to see her at her funeral. He's very sad to see this. He regrets abandoning them. • Several years later, Magwitch walks into his room, the convict from decades before. He claims he is the one who gave Pip the money because of Pip's kindness as a boy. He tells Pip that he will dedicate his life to serve Pip. • Pip feels a connection with Magwitch so he joins him. Magwhich is being pursued by the police and by a former lover of Miss Havisham. They are trying to get out of London. • Just before Magwitch tries to escape, Estella marries a man named Bently Drummle. Pip decides to go to her mother's house where she begs for his forgiveness. Afterward, she is terribly burned but survives. • Pip goes to a swamp where he doesn't know who he'll meet and Orlick tries to kill him because Pip has caused him a lot of trouble. Magwitch comes in time to save him. • In the attempt to escape, they are caught and Magwitch murders Compeyson. Magwhitch is sentenced to death but is happy with the outcome. Pip loses his fortune and returns home after falling ill and finds nothing is left for him. • Pip ends up with Estella and lives happily despite his loss of fortune.	
Describe the author's style	An example that demonstrates that style

The author is comic and sympathetic.
Somewhat satirical and dramatic. As well as
dark and critical.

Memorable Quotes:

Quotations (4 examples) w/page

Significance – **in brief:** save a full explication for your written analysis
--who, what, why, what difference it makes --

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Pip	The narrator, he's also the protagonist. He starts as a young orphan.	He is the vessel through which Dickens explores the social criticism.	Passionate, ambitious, romantic
Estella	She's the beautiful girl who Pip has chased throughout the novel. She is usually mean to him.	She is what makes Pip run, she's the motivator and the ultimate goal for Pip	Cold, cruel, bitchy
Miss Havisham	She is the old wealthy woman who lives near Pip's village. She is often very happy.	She is the driving force behind Estella's cruelty. She hates men and so she wants to exact her revenge.	Spiteful, wealthy, insane,
Abel Magwitch	He's a terrible criminal. He escapes from prison but acts as something of a foil for pip.	He acts to help Pip and Pip helps him. He's significant because he sort of acts as a foil, but he also helps Pip develop.	Bellicose, dangerous, loyal
Joe Gargery	This is Pip's brother-in-law. He's a blacksmith. He has an abusive wife who's referred to as "Mrs. Joe"	He's very sympathetic and is nice. This is partly to do with his ignorance. He genuinely cares for	Ignorant, a village boy

Jaggers	He’s a powerful lawyer and he helps Pip move up on the food chain. He’s very immoral.	Pip. He’s who helps Pip move up through the system and is therefore a great driving force.	Powerful, litigious, immoral
Setting (where + when)		Significance of opening scene	
This takes place in Kent and London England during the mid-nineteenth century.			
		Significance of ending/closing scene	
Symbols you notice and what they “mean”			
Anything that has to do with crime such as policemen (something that Dicken’s father was very familiar with and therefore was able to write about) symbolized the innocence and the impending restrictions of social class as well as innocence and punishment. The marsh mists symbolize danger with uncertainty and the cloudy and frightening future.		Major themes	
		A major theme is ambition and intrinsic motivation. Another theme is the preference for personal connection over affected relationships from social class. Loyalty is another theme.	
Essay topic ideas: 3 possibilities			

Vonnegut's misguided perspective of Science