

British Literature for Christian Homeschoolers

Volume 4: *Great Expectations*

Answer Key to Review Questions

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Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 1 (Chapters I-IV)

1. Sum up Pip's family and home situation.

Philip Pirrip ("Pip") is an orphan looking at his parents' (and five brothers') graves. He lives by the river with his sister and her husband, Joe Gargery, the blacksmith.

2. What is Pip's "visitor's" situation? How does Pip assist him?

A shackled criminal suddenly grabs Pip from among the tombstones, shaking him upside down and eating the bread that falls out of his pocket. The man orders Pip to get him "wittles" and a file from the blacksmith and bring it to him in the morning, and says if he doesn't, an unseen young man will tear out his heart and liver and eat it. Pip runs off to do so, and the convict runs off too.

3. Describe Mrs. Joe. How would you sum up her relationship with Pip and with Joe?

Pip's sister ("Mrs. Joe") is 20 years older than he, and rough on both him and Joe, constantly wearing an apron (which she wears as badge of her supposed hardships in life). Joe, her husband, is a strong but gentle man. Mrs. Joe comes in after looking for Pip, strikes him with "Tickler," a cane, and yells at him.

Mrs. Joe gives Pip bread and butter, which he sticks down his leg for the convict. Joe is worried Pip "bolted" his food, and Mrs. Joe force-feeds him and Joe tar-water. Pip's conscience starts bothering him, knowing he must "steal" food and a file from Mrs. Joe for the convict; he is also terrified of the young man who will supposedly tear his heart and liver out.

4. How does Pip's assistance affect his "friend"? Who is the other man, and how does his presence affect Pip's "friend"?

Cannons are heard in the distance, meaning a convict has escaped (a total of two) from nearby prison ships. That night, Pip creeps out of bed and takes food (including a pork pie), brandy, and a file to the convict.

Pip runs in the cold of night to the graveyard, waking up the convict—and it's someone else! The man swings at Pip, misses, and runs away. Pip finds his convict, and the man wolfs down the food and brandy, emotionally touched—even wiping a tear—at Pip's helping him.

Pip mentions that he saw the young man the convict was talking about, which unsettles the convict, who asks Pip if the man had a bruised cheek, which he did. The convict promises to find the other man and starts to file off the chain from his leg.

5. What does Pip mean when he says, "Mrs. Joe was a very clean housekeeper, but had an exquisite art of making her cleanliness more uncomfortable and unacceptable than dirt itself. Cleanliness is next to Godliness, and some people do the same by their religion"?

He means that people like Mrs. Joe make their religion an uncomfortable thing and miserable for everyone around them.

6. Who are the Christmas guests, and what are they like? How do they treat Pip? What do Joe's attempts to make it up to Pip show about his character?

The guests at dinner are Mr. Wopsle (the church clerk with a deep voice that he's very proud of), Mr. and Mrs. Hubble, and Uncle Pumblechook (Joe's uncle, who looks like a dull fish).

During the dinner, the guests and Mrs. Joe chide Pip on his supposed lack of thankfulness, and every time anyone scolds Pip, Joe tries to make up for it by spooning gravy onto Pip's plate. The guests and Mrs. Joe decide that pig meat would be a great subject to talk about, and they use the subject to hassle Pip about his alleged offenses and causing trouble, with Joe heaping spoon after spoon of gravy onto Pip's plate.

Joe is shown to be a great friend to Pip, trying to ease his life and in his own way stand up for him

7. Describe the pork pie incident.

Joe goes to get the pork pie (which Pip has stolen for the convict), and Pip knows he's in trouble. He screams and tries to run away, but is intercepted at the door by soldiers looking for the convicts.

Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 2 (Chapters V-VIII)

1. What concerns Pip greatly when he goes with the men? What is surprising about his convict friend's behavior?

After Joe fixes the handcuffs, Mr. Wopsle, Joe, and Pip accompany the soldiers to the hunt for the convicts. Pip worries that the convicts will think he is the one who led the soldiers to them. The convict says he could have escaped, but didn't, to make sure the other man got captured.

2. Explain the convict's "confession." What does this event show about him and about Joe?

After taking the convicts back to the ship, the one convict "confesses" to taking the food and brandy to keep Pip from getting into trouble. Joe says he was welcome to it, and the convict chokes up with emotion again. This shows both men to be considerate of others, which Pip no doubt notes.

3. Why doesn't Pip confess to have taken the food and the file?

He's afraid Joe will think lesser of him.

4. Describe Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt's "evening school" Pip attends. What is Biddy like?

Pip learns very little except for listening to Mr. Wopsle's orations and watching his great-aunt sleep. Biddy, Mr. Wopsle's great-aunt's granddaughter and an orphan like Pip (and roughly his age), runs the store there and helps Pip learn to read and cipher.

5. What do we learn about Joe's background? How does it explain his marriage to Mrs. Joe?

Pip writes a pathetically childish letter to Joe, who marvels at it, unable to read most of it—although he still says he loves "reading" a newspaper by the fire. Joe tells Pip he never learned to read, because his drunken father beat him and his mother so badly that they moved around to escape him, unable to make time to teach him. Joe is not bitter toward his father about this, even telling Pip he wrote a poem for his father's gravestone, which they couldn't afford to have on it, with Joe's mother in poor health and dying soon after.

Joe tells Pip that Mrs. Joe is a "fine woman" and that she raised Pip, and Joe was glad to take Pip along with Mrs. Joe when he asked her to marry him. Pip weeps, he is so grateful to Joe.

Joe tells Pip that they need to stick together because Mrs. Joe is "given to government"—inclined to boss the two around—and that she wouldn't like Joe's learning too much, fearing that it would cause him to rebel against her harshness. Joe says he doesn't stand up to Mrs. Joe because she reminds him of his poor mother, who had such hardships, that he doesn't have the heart to.

6. What announcement is made regarding Pip?

Mrs. Joe returns from shopping with Uncle Pumblechook and announces that Miss Havisham, a rich old widow, requests Pip to come play at her house—and might even make his fortune.

7. Describe Satis House and Miss Havisham (and her room).

It is a large but run-down mansion (also called Manor House). Estella leads Pip to a room where sits a lady—Miss Havisham—an older lady, skin and bone, dressed in a wedding gown and everything white (now yellow with age). The clock and watch in the room are stopped at 8:40.

Miss Havisham order Pip to play to entertain her (he can't), so she tells him to call Estella, whom she tells, "Break his heart!"

8. How does Estella treat Pip? Why does this make Pip angry with his sister?

She speaks down to him (calling him "boy"). They play cards, and Estella mocks Pip for being common and coarse until tears come to his eyes, which she enjoys seeing. When he leaves, Estella lets him out, mocking him one last time.

Pip thinks that his sister has been quite unjust to him, for being violent with him, and for bringing him up to be so "common" that Estella mocks him.

Great Expectations – Week 24, Day 3 (Chapters IX-XII)

1. Why do you think Pip makes up stories about Satis House for his relatives? What is Joe's reaction?

They don't satisfy Mrs. Joe and Uncle Pumblechook.

Later Pip confesses his lies to Joe, and says he wishes he weren't so "common." Joe tells Pip to stop lying, and that "That ain't the way to get out of being common." He encourages Pip to confess his lies in his prayers that night, and encourages him that he can learn to read and write so he can be "uncommon," just like the king of England had to start with his ABCs too.

2. Why does Pip ask for Biddy's help? What do you think about his reasons?

Pip asks Biddy to teach him everything she knows, so he won't appear "common" to Estella. Usually people want to learn to better themselves or become knowledgeable, not to appeal more to snooty types like Estella, so students will probably point this out.

3. Describe Pip's strange encounter at the Jolly Bargemen. How does this affect Pip?

Pip goes by The Jolly Bargemen tavern to pick up Joe on the way home. Joe is with Mr. Wopsle and a stranger, who looks steadily at Pip and rubs his leg strangely. The stranger asks about their encounter with the convicts, then asks about Pip. The stranger then stirs his drink with a file, motioning to Pip that he knows what Pip did for the convict, and gives Pip two pound notes, which Joe tries to return.

The agent is obviously a friend of the convict whom Pip helped in the graveyard, and Pip is afraid the file incident will dog him forever, and he dreams of the file coming after him.

4. What is your take on how Pip's demeanor is changing?

Answers will vary, but many readers will notice a slight touch of snobbery.

5. Sum up the events at Pip's next visit to Miss Havisham's house.

Pip returns, this time in a different room (still with a clock stopped at 8:40), with three ladies and a man ("toadies" and "humbugs" to Pip) who are talking about him. Estella brings Pip to Miss Havisham, slapping him hard in the face, and Pip tells her he will never cry again about her.

The two meet a burly, dark man, balding and with bushy black eyebrows, whose hands smell of scented soap. Miss Havisham sends Pip across the hall to a room covered in cobwebs, spiders, mice, and beetles, and with a decaying wedding cake.

Pip rolls Miss Havisham around the room in her wheelchair, in front of Estella and the other guests; Camilla and Sarah Pocket complain of ill health, and the guests show themselves to generally be boot-lickers of Miss Havisham, there for her birthday party. She tells Pip she shall be laid on a certain table, in her wedding dress, to be buried—better yet if it's on her birthday.

Pip plays cards with Estella, is fed, and wanders outside the house. He sees a “pale young gentleman” and has a boxing match with him, knocking him down and winning. Estella is so pleased with this that she offers to let Pip kiss her cheek, which he does.

6. Compare Biddy with Estella.

Biddy is a gentle, caring girl who patiently listens to Pip's endless talking, a dramatic contrast to Estella's cold, cruel hatefulness toward Pip.

7. What does Pumblechook speculate about Pip with Joe and Mrs. Joe? How do they differ on what Pip's future should be?

Uncle Pumblechook regularly irritates Pip by endlessly discussing Pip's future with his sister and wondering if Miss Havisham will give Pip a fortune. Joe silently opposes Pip's being taken away from the forge, which angers Mrs. Joe.

8. Explain Miss Havisham's action toward Joe, and how Mrs. Joe reacts. Why do you think Mrs. Joe acts this way?

Miss Havisham asks Pip for papers committing him to be indentured to Joe, which angers Mrs. Joe so badly that she cleans the house for hours, shutting Joe and Pip out.

Answers will vary on why she does this, but it might be that she wants Pip gone from her house, or that she is angered at what she thinks is Joe's spoiling of Pip's potentially becoming a “gentleman.”

Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 1 (Chapters XIII-XVI)

1. What is your view of Pip's discomfort of being with Joe at Miss Havisham's house and unhappiness with his apprenticeship to him and his home?

Answers will vary, but it is pretty low of Pip to be ashamed of Joe's behavior in front of two people—Miss Havisham and Estella—who are pretty despicable. It also seems that Pip is turning more and more into a snob, not even wanting to work with Joe in a respectable profession and being ashamed of his home, just because he thinks that a snit like Estella will look down on him.

2. Describe Dolge Orlick. How does Joe's confrontation with him link him (Joe) to Pip?

Dolge Orlick is a slouching, strong, moody, swarthy man who doesn't like Pip. When Pip takes a half-day off to visit Estella, Orlick demands the same half-day off. Joe agrees, Mrs. Joe objects, and Orlick sasses her. When she flies into a frenzy, Joe and Orlick fight, with Joe winning handily. (This recalls the fight between Pip and the "pale young gentleman.")

3. At this point in *Great Expectations*, what is your take on Miss Havisham's weird behavior?

Answers will vary, but she seems to take a perverse delight in Estella's tormenting Pip, even hoping that he will "love" her and be rejected. More info to come....

4. What happens to Mrs. Joe, and how is she affected? Whom do you believe to be the culprit?

Mrs. Joe has been hit on the head from behind, seriously wounded, and never to be the same "rampager" again. She can't speak, and her hearing, memory, and vision are impaired. Her temperament is greatly improved, however, and Biddy comes to help take care of her. One day Mrs. Joe signals that she wants Orlick (only Biddy figures it out), and she makes motions to indicate that she wants to make sure that Orlick is happy and taken care of.

Answers will vary as to who students believe the culprit is.

Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 2 (Chapters XVII-XVIII)

1. Sum up the discussion between Pip and Biddy over Pip's desire to be a gentleman. What internal conflict does he have?

Pip tells Biddy he wants to be a "gentleman." She objects, but he says he wants to become one to win over Estella, who sneered at his "common" qualities. Biddy remarks that to become a gentleman to spite Estella is easier done by ignoring her, and to win her over isn't worthy because she is not worth it. Pip admits she is right, but still admires her.

Pip tries to make himself happy with the thought of a life as a blacksmith, but every time he thinks he's won himself over, he thinks of Estella.

2. In Chapter 17, what similarity do you notice between Pip and Orlick?

They both heap unwanted attention on a female; Orlick just seems plain nasty, but Pip's fawning over Estella is irritating to watch.

3. What news does Jaggers have for Pip? How is this news both welcome and sad for Pip?

At an alehouse, a stranger who keeps biting his fingers (the lawyer Jaggers) asks for Pip, and Pip recognizes him as the man he met on the stairs at Miss Havisham's before (with the scented soap smell). He meets with Joe and Pip at the Gargery home, asking Joe to release Pip from his apprenticeship so that a secret benefactor can make a gentleman out of Pip.

Jaggers recommends Matthew Pocket as a tutor, and Joe refuses any present or money for the loss of Pip, even becoming emotional about their being friends. Biddy and Joe seem sad about Pip's leaving, and Biddy tries to explain to Mrs. Joe, who doesn't understand.

Pip feels inexplicably gloomy with himself (probably because he knows he puts too much faith and hope in the "gentleman" business). Pip looks around his room that night, thinking of the memories there.

4. As a reader, what is your reaction to Pip's news?

Answers will vary! Many readers might be glad; many might say, "Oh, no; this will turn Pip into even more of a snob, just to please Estella."

Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 3 (Chapters XIX-XX)

1. Describe Pip's last week at home. What is ironic about what he says to Biddy before he goes?

Pip feels free during his last week home. He walks to the marshes and graveyard by the church, saying goodbye, thinking of the poor prisoner he met many years ago. He falls asleep and awakens to find Joe there.

Pip asks Biddy to teach Joe everything she can, so he will be acceptable in high society if Pip can help put him there. Pip's condescending tone greatly annoys Biddy. Pip accuses her of being jealous and showing a "bad side of human nature"—ironic, since HE'S the one showing a bad side of human nature!

2. What event represents Pip's transformation into a "gentleman in training"?

His getting a new wardrobe—although this is just an outward appearance, which is perhaps significant.

3. Why does Pip walk alone to the coach? How does he himself react to this?

Pip decides to walk by himself, ashamed of Joe's appearance. He leaves, and weeps, a little ashamed of himself.

4. Describe London and Jaggers's offices. How do we know Jaggers is a respected man? What ominous words does he have for Pip?

This area of London is crowded and dirty, and Pip doesn't like it. He reaches Jaggers's office and is greeted by the clerk (Wemmick). Jaggers's office is filled with weird weapons and two casts of swollen faces. Not able to stand it anymore, he leaves and sees Newgate Prison, so horrified by it that he returns to Jaggers. He sees many odd and downcast characters outside Jaggers's office, and he is impressed that Jaggers is an important person.

Jaggers arrives and talks roughly to several of his clients, warning them in various ways not to tell him too much (apparently he takes on rough and hopeless cases, not wanting to know much about the clients' probable guilt).

Jaggers tells Pip that he (Pip) will stay with Mr. Pocket at "Barnard's Inn" for a while, reveals his allowance, and hands him business cards for needs with various merchants. He tells Pip, "Of course, you'll go wrong somehow, but that's no fault of mine."

Great Expectations – Week 25, Day 4 (Chapters XXI-XXIII)

1. What is Wemmick like?

Wemmick is a dry, chiseled bachelor with small black eyes, fortyish. He walks Pip home, remarking that London can be dangerous, but no worse than anywhere else. They reach Barnard Inn, which is shabby and dilapidated, and Wemmick leaves him.

2. Compare Herbert Pocket to Pip. What does Pip learn from him?

Herbert Pocket is the “pale young gentleman” Pip boxed with at Miss Havisham’s many years ago! He is cheerful and content about his shabby circumstances, saying that he has to work, since his father has nothing to leave him. This is a marked contrast to Pip’s creeping sense of entitlement and longing for the “better things” in life.

Pip learns this from Herbert:

- *Estella was raised by Miss Havisham to be a man-hater.*
- *Jaggers is Miss Havisham’s advisor.*
- *Herbert’s father (Pip’s tutor) is Miss Havisham’s cousin*

Herbert also tells Pip that Miss Havisham, whose mother died, was a spoiled, rich brat, thanks to her brewer father. Her father married again—a cook, Herbert thinks—and had a son by his second wife, a wayward, riotous son. The father died, leaving Miss Havisham rich, and she succumbed to a phony suitor, who took her for a huge sum of money, promising to marry her. She received a letter from him calling off the marriage (at 8:40, which she stopped her clocks and watches at), and went downhill from there. Miss Havisham’s half-brother—who might have conspired with the phony suitor—has not been seen, nor the phony suitor.

3. Describe the Pocket household, including Startop and Bentley Drummle.

It is running over with seven children, with a befuddled, rather helpless Mrs. Pocket overseeing things through the aid of two maids. Mr. Pocket is a gentleman with messy gray hair.

Mrs. Pocket is eccentric, asking Pip weird questions, and useless in most normal situations, apparently because she was raised that way by an odd, wannabe-nobility father. Two other young men, Startop and Drummle, live there, and it is generally understood that the servants run the house.

The Pockets married young, and Mr. Pocket missed out on opportunities because of that (he is highly educated). Their neighbor, Mrs. Coiler, is a flatterer who excuses Mrs. Pocket’s nuttiness.

Dinner is an odd occasion, with Mrs. Pocket acting loony, Bentley Drummle sulking, Mr. Pocket pulling himself up by his hair in distress, and so on. Mrs. Pocket carelessly imperils the baby, and her daughter Jane tries to save it, to Mrs. Pocket’s irritation.

Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 1 (Chapters XXIV-XXVI)

1. Explain Mr. Pocket's offer to Pip.

Mr. Pocket convinces Pip, honorably, to let him serve as Pip's guide to becoming cultured in a proper way for someone who will become a gentleman.

2. What kind of man is Wemmick, in your estimation, based on how he treats Pip and his father, and his home?

He is a decent chap—kind to Pip (telling him not to worry about Jaggers's roughness, and inviting Pip to dinner); gentle and doting on his "Aged Parent"; and his house looks like a castle, complete with flag, bridge, and moat! It is a haven from work for Wemmick, and he is proud of it.

3. What do we learn about Jaggers from Wemmick and from seeing Jaggers at work?

Wemmick tells Pip that Jaggers never locks his windows or doors at night, daring anyone to rob him, because he is such a threat to have them jailed or hanged. His watch is worth 100 pounds, but no thief would dare touch it, because all know that he would be turned in by the other thieves.

Wemmick also says if Pip ever eats with Jaggers, to look at his housekeeper, whom he calls a "wild beast tamed." As a lawyer Jaggers tears apart witnesses and causes others in the court to fear him.

4. Describe Bentley Drummle and Startop.

Bentley Drummle is mopey and unfriendly; Startop is a little of a momma's boy, but friendly.

5. How does Pip's meal with Jaggers go? Why do you think Jaggers seems to like Bentley Drummle? Why then does he warn Pip to stay away from him?

Jaggers continually washes his hands after meeting with clients, apparently to wash off the taint of being around them. His house is a little dingy, and the wallpaper has loops which Pip thinks look like nooses. When Drummle and Startop arrive, Jaggers makes a note of Drummle, speaking to him.

Pip notices the housekeeper, a woman of about forty, with long hair, with an expression that reminds Pip of the witches from Macbeth. She watches Jaggers attentively, waiting constantly for his approval.

The dinner is magnificent, and Pip notices that Jaggers is able to wrench out of his guests more than they each want to admit about themselves.

Jaggers suddenly grabs Molly's wrist and demands she shows them; she begs off, but he insists, and she displays thick, scarred wrists that Jaggers praises as extremely powerful.

Jaggers praises Drummle in a way that seems as if he wants to divide the young men, which works. They begin to argue, and Drummle makes it clear he despises them. Startop tries to turn the conversation, and Drummle tries to throw a glass at him, which Jaggers stops him from doing, announcing it is time for them to leave.

Drummle is so angry he won't even walk home with Startop. Pip thanks Jaggers for dinner, and Jaggers says he likes Drummle (the "Spider"); Pip says he doesn't.

Answers will vary as to the last question.

Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 2 (Chapters XXVII-XXIX)

1. Joe tells Pip: "I'm all wrong in these clothes." What is actually wrong? What is ironic about Joe's statement?

What is actually wrong is Pip's attitude toward Joe—ashamed and embarrassed at his coming. The irony in Joe's statement is that PIP is the one who is wrong in the gentleman's clothes; he's not acting like a gentleman at all. He has been spending more money, even to the point of outfitting a boy to be his servant (he calls him "Pepper" or "The Avenger").

2. What about Joe's calling Pip "sir" do you think actually upsets him?

He pretends to dislike it because he convinces himself that he has not changed and Joe is treating him differently, but Pip is the one who acts superior and condescending, and the "sir" moniker actually is fitting in light of this.

3. Whom does Pip run into on the way to Miss Havisham's? What does he overhear?

Two convicts ride with his coach, and he recognizes one as the man at the Jolly Bargemen who pretended to shoot him! The convict sits right behind Pip, breathing on him, and he hears them talking. The convict says he was commissioned by someone to give the boy that gave him food two one-pound notes, and Pip realizes he is talking about him!

4. Describe Pip's trip to Miss Havisham's house. How has he become much like Estella?

He thinks of marrying Estella, and to his surprise, Orlick opens the door; he was hired to guard the house, lives on premises, and is armed.

Estella is now a beautiful young woman. She is still proud and haughty, though, and Pip is again transfixed by her. She talks outside with him, mentioning that he is changed and no longer hangs out with "lower" company; Pip thinks guiltily of Joe.

Estella is cold and heartless, a fact she admits to Pip. Pip looks at her and is reminded of something he can't place his finger on. Estella warns Pip that she will remain cold and aloof if they are married.

The two return inside to Miss Havisham, and when Estella leaves, Miss Havisham says "Love her! Love her!" to Pip, relishing the fact that Estella is so cold toward him.

Pip goes back to the inn, thinking of how much he loves Estella, how grateful he is that they are to be married, and how ashamed he is that he wants to keep Joe away from her, since he is ashamed of him.

Pip has become much like Estella—proud, haughty, and superior-acting toward supposed "lower" classes—even to a beloved, kind man like Joe.

Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 3 (Chapters XXX-XXXIII)

1. How does Pip's return home go?

He walks around his hometown, people staring at him, except for Trabb's boy, who mocks him. Pip returns to London without seeing Joe.

2. Describe Pip's conversation with Herbert about marriage.

Pip tells Herbert that he loves Estella (Herbert already knows). He says he is unsure about his having to depend upon Miss Havisham's patronage to marry Estella, but Herbert reassures him, saying he heard his father comment strongly and surely upon the subject.

Herbert then asks Pip if he has to marry Estella (as in, "Why would you want to?"). He then tells Pip he is secretly engaged to a woman named Clara, who is poor; he can't marry her when he lacks the funds to support her. Pip resolves to help Herbert financially.

3. Do you see a link between Mr. Wopsle's performing so terribly in *Hamlet* and anyone else?

We laugh (and rightly so) at Mr. Wopsle's terrible performance in Hamlet, but it should occur to the reader that Pip is doing exactly the same thing—playacting his way through life, and not doing a very good job of it.

4. What happens during Pip's time with Estella? How does Pip feel after being with her?

Estella arrives, and Pip thinks again of something unknown he recognizes in her face. Estella says they "have no choice" and "are not free to follow our own devices." Estella is to live with a rich lady who will put her into society. She asks about Herbert, saying that the rest of the Pocket family despises Pip, writing letters to Miss Havisham about how rotten he is. Estella laughs heartily at this, saying they have failed, and that she especially enjoys their failure, since they have always done the same to her.

Pip is disheartened because of Estella's coldness and manner that indicates that although they might be married, it is out of her control. They leave and drive past Newgate, Estella expressing disgust and Pip vowing never to mention his visit.

Pip asks Estella if Miss Havisham has charge over her, and Estella says "God forbid!" She says she is to report often to her, however, about herself and Miss Havisham's jewels. Estella calculatedly calls Pip by his name for the first time, which Pip treasures.

Afterwards Pip thinks about how he is always miserable when he is with her. He arrives home, heartsick and more miserable. He thinks about asking Mr. Pocket for advice, but when he sees Mrs. Pocket "fixing" the problem of the baby's taking and possibly swallowing a number of sewing needles by sending him to bed, he thinks better of it!

Great Expectations – Week 26, Day 4 (Chapters XXXIV-XXXVI)

1. How is Pip's money affecting him—and even Herbert Pocket?

Pip realizes his money is affecting his behavior, and he misses being with Joe. He gets into debt with lavish spending and influences Herbert to do the same, causing some despondency in him as he looks for a better position. Both Herbert and Pip are miserable. The two know they are in trouble and make half-hearted attempts to do something about it, but it never amounts to anything.

2. Describe the ceremony for Pip's sister. What is most disturbing to Pip about the whole event?

It is oddly ornamental and overblown. Joe is heartbroken, Biddy supportive and steadfast, and Joe tells Pip he would rather have had a simple affair, but the others thought it should be more extravagant.

Pip talks with Biddy during a walk, asking her why she didn't tell him his sister was worse, and Biddy seems disappointed with him. (Mrs. Joe said the words "Joe," then "Pardon," then "Pip," and died soon after.

Biddy has seen Orlick several times and is upset by it. She says she will leave Joe, but is concerned about him, and Pip says he will take care of him. Biddy doesn't put much faith in Pip, which upsets him.

3. Sum up what Pip receives and learns on his twenty-first birthday.

He goes to Jaggers's office to find out what he will receive. Jaggers asks him if he knows how much money he is spending. Pip doesn't know, and asks Jaggers if his benefactress will be revealed (No), and if he has anything to receive (Yes, 500 pounds per year, starting today, until his donor reveals himself).

Pip asks if his benefactor will soon come to London, and Jaggers replies that it might be years until that happens, and he refuses to answer anything more about it, saying it might compromise him and he doesn't want to know anything about it.

4. How does Pip compare Wemmick and Jaggers? What is significant about the thought he has about them?

Walking home, Pip asks Wemmick how he (Pip) can help Herbert start in business, and Wemmick says Pip might as well throw the money into the Thames River. Pip thinks of how much more intelligent and sharp Jaggers is than Wemmick, but realizes he would much rather have Wemmick as a friend.

These thoughts should have put into Pip's mind how bad he is a friend to those who care for him and try to help him (Joe, Biddy, Herbert, etc.).

Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 1 (Chapters XXXVII-XXXIX)

1. Why does Pip say that his helping Herbert is the only good thing that has happened as a result of his expectations?

Answers will vary, but it seems that Pip is starting to realize that his coming into money has not made him happy or helped him win Estella's heart, which he thinks will make him happy.

2. What is your take on Pip's attitude toward Estella, especially in light of what happens in Chapter 38?

It seems strange that he is still obsessed with her, especially in light of...

- *Estella's toying with Pip's feelings, driving him crazy,*
- *Pip's misery around her,*
- *his somehow thinks being married to her will make him happy,*
- *her warning him not to love her because of her coldness,*
- *Miss Havisham's weird fixation on Estella's beauty and joy at her using Pip to get revenge on men, and*
- *her letting Bentley Drummle be around her.*

3. Why do you think Dickens chose to have violent weather surround the events in Chapter 39?

It is a visual representation of Pip's world being torn apart with the return of Magwitch to him.

4. Why is Pip so shocked at the visitor's revelation? What main truths does he face as a result?

He thought his benefactress was Miss Havisham all the time. Now he realizes...

- *Miss Havisham was simply using him for Estella to toy with,*
- *he has no chance of marrying Estella, and*
- *he has deserted Joe for no reason at all.*

Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 2 (Chapters XL-XLIII)

1. What is Pip's constant focus and fear now? What does he trip over in the dark?

To keep his convict, Abel Magwitch, hidden from the police. Pip trips over a man in the stairway in the dark, but comes back and he is gone.

2. How are Magwitch and Joe linked in Chapter 40?

Magwitch eats ravenously, which disgusts Pip. In this way Magwitch is linked to Joe, whose improper manners Pip grew to dislike—even though Joe, like Magwitch, is Pip's great beneficiary.

3. Sum up Magwitch's plans and Pip's visit with Jaggers.

Magwitch says he plans to live in Pip's area permanently, disguised as someone else. They decide to tell Herbert, dress him like a rich farmer, and move him close by.

Pip visits Jaggers, and Jaggers warns him not to say too much, both pretending that Magwitch is still in New South Wales. Pip accuses Jaggers of leading him to believe Miss Havisham was his benefactress, but Jaggers denies this completely.

4. Why does Pip's attempt to disguise Magwitch fail? How does this "clothing problem" link Magwitch with Pip himself?

Pip clothes Magwitch, realizing it is almost impossible to disguise him, since he still behaves so much like a prisoner. This recalls Pip's day of getting all new clothes when he received his expectations—which only made him look different; it couldn't hide the real Pip.

5. What do you think about Pip's decision not to take any more from his benefactor?

Answers will vary.

6. What is Herbert Pocket's advice to Pip what he should do? Do you think it is sensible? What do the two decide to do with Magwitch?

Herbert advises Pip to help Magwitch get out of England first, then separate himself from him. Answers will vary as to its sensibility. The two decide to smuggle Magwitch out of London by water.

7. Sum up Magwitch's back story.

Magwitch was in and out of trouble and prisons ever since he was a little orphaned boy. Twenty years ago he met a man named Compeyson, the man he fought at the graveyard when Pip knew him many years ago. He first met Compeyson, a smooth-talking crook, at a bar, and he asked Magwitch to be his partner. (Compeyson's other partner, Arthur, was dying.)

Magwitch is later convicted for theft while with Compeyson and serves time; Compeyson gets off because of his smooth looks and ways. Magwitch threatens to smash Compeyson's face, and he does on a prison ship, escaping to Pip's graveyard. Magwitch gets life in prison, and again Compeyson gets off lightly.

Compeyson, Herbert reveals to Pip, was the man who jilted Miss Havisham at their wedding.

Great Expectations – Week 27, Day 3 (Chapters XL-XLIII)

1. Sum up Pip's next encounter with Miss Havisham and Estella.

Pip asks Miss Havisham if it was kind to let him believe she was his benefactress, and she shouts, "Who am I, that I should be kind?" Pip asks her to help Herbert.

He then tells Estella he loves her, and chides Miss Havisham for torturing him with Estella for so long, which seems to affect Miss Havisham. Estella tells Pip she warned him of her coldness, and then surprises him by saying she will marry Bentley Drummle. Pip is devastated, and he begs her not to marry him, even if she marries someone else. She says she will certainly not be a blessing to Drummle, and Pip pours out his heart to her, which affects Estella not at all, but does wrench Miss Havisham's heart.

Pip walks all the way home, and the porter gives him a note from Wemmick that says: "DON'T GO HOME."

2. What does Wemmick tell Pip?

After reading the "DON'T GO HOME" note from Wemmick, Pip rises next morning and walks to Wemmick's castle. Wemmick tells Pip, in guarded words, this:

- *Pip's apartment was being watched.*
- *Wemmick told Herbert to get Magwitch out of there.*
- *Herbert put him in his fiancé Clara's father's apartment.*
- *This is handy because it is remote, easily accessible, and close to the water, to facilitate escape.*
- *Go home and not go directly to the castle afterwards, and also to get hold of Magwitch's property.*

3. Describe Mr. Barley, Clara, and Mrs. Whimple. When Pip thinks of Clara and Mrs. Whimple, why does he become sad?

Pip travels to the riverside building where Magwitch is staying, next to Herbert Pocket's fiancé's father, the irascible Mr. Barley. Clara is a sweet young girl of 20 whom Pip admires as gentle and kind (a stark contrast to Estella). As Pip leaves, he thinks of the sweetness of Clara and Mrs. Whimple, the house mother, and then thinks of Estella, and is sad.

4. What is Pip's goal? What does he do to accomplish it?

Herbert and Pip decide to practice rowing across the river so he can successfully row Magwitch across the river. Pip practices rowing day after day, worried about Magwitch's safety.

5. List Pip's two main worries in Chapter 47. What shakes him after he attends a play starring Mr. Wopsle?

He senses that Estella is married, and dreads finding out, living a life of double worry—about her and Magwitch's safety.

Pip goes to a play starring Mr. Wopsle, and seems to see Mr. Wopsle staring at him. Afterwards Mr. Wopsle tells Pip that he saw one of the prisoners on the marsh (Compeyson) sitting behind him.

Pip is shaken, tells Herbert, mails a letter telling Wemmick, and Herbert and Pip decide to simply be more careful.

Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 1 (Chapters XLVIII-LI)

1. Explain the two revelations in Chapter 48. Which one is more surprising to you?

Bentley Drummle has “won the Estella stakes,” and Molly, Jaggers’s housekeeper, is Estella’s mother.

2. Whose background does Wemmick explain to Pip, and what is this backstory?

Pip asks Wemmick about Molly, the “wild beast tamed,” as Wemmick once called her. Molly, Wemmick says, was acquitted of murder of another woman through Jaggers’s efforts. She was also accused of possibly killing her child—a girl—and Jaggers shreds both charges, and has employed her ever since.

3. What two reasons does Miss Havisham have for seeing Pip? What happens to her, and what do you think this represents?

She apologizes to Pip, and Pip asks her to give Herbert 900 pounds. She agrees and asks Pip to forgive her, kneeling in front of him and saying, “What have I done!” Pip forgives her and pities her foolish obsession, which has ruined her life.

The fire which burns her badly also burns Pip, to a lesser extent; this could represent her bitterness, which has destroyed her life, and to a lesser extent, hurt Pip.

4. What does Pip realize in Chapter 50? How does Jaggers explain his actions to Pip?

When Herbert nurses Pip’s wounds, he tells Pip a story: Magwitch fathered a child with Molly, and after she killed a woman in jealousy, she threatened to kill their child, whom Magwitch think is as a result dead. Pip realizes that Magwitch is Estella’s father.

Without admitting anything, of course, Jaggers tells Pip that he (Jaggers) had seen so many children of criminals going bad that he saved Estella by taking charge of her and giving her to Miss Havisham.

Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 2 (Chapters LII-LIII)

1. What does Pip call “the only good thing I had done, since I was first apprised of my great expectations”? What does this say about his character?

His arranging for Herbert to receive 900 pounds from Miss Havisham. Pip seems to be slowly returning to realize he isn’t the big shot he’s pretended to be.

2. What other evidence is given that Pip’s character is changing? What does his easily being able to find his way around the dark marsh represent?

After Pip receives a letter telling him he better come alone to his old marshes, or Magwitch will be turned in, he leaves. He stays at an inn, learning from the innkeeper (who doesn’t know him) that he, Pip, is ungrateful to Pumblechook, who supposedly made him. Pip thinks of Joe and knows Joe would never say anything like Pumblechook does, so stricken with his lack of gratitude that he can’t even eat.

Pip feels at home and knows his way around the marshes, even in the dark. (This represents the fact that this is where he belongs, even in “dark” times.)

3. What main thoughts bother Pip the most as he faces the dangerous situation? What suspicion of his is confirmed?

When Pip is suddenly covered and pinned by Orlick (who is going to kill him, because he says Pip kept Biddy from him, and threatened to drive him out of the country), Pip’s mind races with terrible thoughts:

- how Magwitch will think he deserted him
- how Herbert will not understand
- how Estella will hate him
- how Joe and Biddy won't know how sorry he was

Orlick tells Pip he tried to kill Mrs. Joe because she was easy on him and hard on Orlick; that it was he whom Pip stumbled over the stairs that one night; and that his friends will capture Magwitch.

Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 3 (Chapters LIV-LVI)

1. What happens with the escape of Magwitch? How does Pip's treatment of him change?

The group rows Magwitch to safety; he is delighted at Pip, saying it feels good to be free again—better to him, who has been a prisoner.

That night the crew think they are being followed. The group gets off at an inn for the night. One man, Jack, tells Pip about another boat of four oarsmen who recently came by. Pip awakes to see two men looking into his boat.

Next day, Pip rows to the steamer that will take Magwitch out of the country, but sees another boat coming with one man wrapped up on it. The boat comes alongside theirs, and a man demands that the group release Magwitch to them. They stop Pip's boat, and Magwitch grabs the wrapped up man in the other boat (Compeyson) and falls into the water, killing him. Magwitch is chained and is wounded in the chest and head.

Pip stays with Magwitch, regarding him tenderly (a contrast to his former view); Magwitch says he was glad to see "his" gentleman. Pip realizes he is destitute, since Magwitch's property will be confiscated.

2. Sum up some of the major developments in Chapter 55.

Pip contacts Jaggers with the news of Magwitch's capture, and Jaggers is angry that Pip let the property slip through his fingers.

Herbert tells Pip he must leave him for a business trip to Egypt, and he worries about Pip's future, of which Pip says he has none. He asks Pip to join his company, and Pip says he can't now, but might in the future.

Wemmick tells Pip Compeyson fooled him into thinking he was away, which is why Wemmick told Pip that then was a good time to take Magwitch away; Pip forgives him. Wemmick asks Pip to take a walk with him that Monday, and Pip obliges; it is to witness Wemmick's wedding to Miss Skiffins!

3. Describe Pip's time with Magwitch in prison.

Magwitch's condition worsens; Pip visits him every day. Magwitch is forced to go to trial and is sentenced to death along with 31 others. Pip writes numerous petitions for Magwitch, haunting the places where he sends them.

Pip visits Magwitch daily, and Magwitch thanks him heartily, growing worse daily. One day Pip tells Magwitch, so weak he can no longer speak back to him, that his daughter is grown and beautiful, and that he loves her. Magwitch summons all his strength and kisses Pip's hand, then dies.

Great Expectations – Week 28, Day 4 (Chapters LVII-LIX)

1. What is Pip's joyous discovery after his illness? What else does he learn?

Pip falls seriously ill, deliriously imagining things and unable to move much. Creditors harass him, and he sees many people in his room, and after some time begins to imagine they are all Joe. Then he realizes Joe is there, who is overjoyed Pip recognizes him, walking to the window and wiping tears away.

Joe tells Pip he is married now, and that Biddy told Joe to go to Pip immediately. Joe then writes a letter to Biddy (who has taught him to write). Pip asks Joe if Miss Havisham is dead (Yes), and Joe tells him that upon Pip's recommendations, she left Herbert Pocket 4,000 pounds. Joe also says that Orlick was caught robbing Pumblechook's store, and he is now in jail.

Pip recovers, and he awakes one morning to find Joe gone and that Joe has paid off all his creditors. Pip decides to go to the forge and to ask Biddy's forgiveness and if she will marry him.

2. What is ironic about Pip's hometown's reception toward him when he returns?

They are cool toward him, which is only ironic/fitting, since he spent quite a bit of time looking down on them after his great expectations.

3. Describe Pumblechook's demeanor. What does Pip, ideally, see in this about himself?

Pumblechook laments dramatically over him, and he tells Pip in front of everyone to admit he was ungrateful to the one who put him in his high position (Pumblechook), and Pip blows him off. Ideally through this phoniness Pip can appreciate the purity of Joe's love, as well as how phony he himself has behaved.

4. What surprise does Pip learn? How does he live the next number of years?

That Joe and Biddy are marrying. Pip takes the clear position with Herbert and advances. He lives with the Pockets, pays off his debts, and writes Joe and Biddy often. Herbert learns that Pip was his benefactor, and they do well at the firm.

5. Describe Pip's initial visit with Joe and Biddy after many years. What has happened in the meantime?

Pip has not seen Joe and Biddy for 11 years. He surprises them with a visit and sees a little boy that looks just like himself, even named Pip! Biddy tells Pip he should marry, but Pip disagrees. She asks if he has forgotten Estella, and he says she is "gone by."

6. What happens at the book's end? What is your take on the last line?

Pip visits Satis House for old time's sake, having heard that Estella was cruelly treated by Bentley Drummle, who died two years ago. He finds everything torn down but a fence. He sees Estella there—older and not quite so beautiful, but warmer and friendlier—and they talk, with tears falling from Estella's eyes.

Estella owns the property and is visiting it once more before it is sold. She says she has often thought of Pip, knowing she threw away his love for nothing. She asks Pip to still be friends, though they must part, but Pip says he sees "no shadow of another parting from her."

Answers will vary as to the interpretation of the last line, but it seems hopeful that Pip and Estella will one day marry.