

## Before Reading

### TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- Look at the expressions on these three faces. Which of these adjectives would you use to describe which face? Amused, proud, curious, anxious, gentle, unfriendly, afraid, sympathetic, cruel?
- Which of the three people do you think will turn out to be the nicest person in the story?

### BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 90)

#### ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 Yes 2 Yes 3 No 4 No 5 Yes

#### ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Open answers. Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny guesses at this stage. (Numbers 1 and 5 are the best answers.)

#### ACTIVITY 3 BEFORE READING

Open answers. Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny guesses.

## While Reading

### CHAPTERS 1 TO 3 WHILE READING

- 1 To look at his parents' names on their gravestones.
- 2 Punishing someone with slaps or blows.
- 3 Bread, cheese, a big meat pie and some brandy.
- 4 To cut off his leg chains.
- 5 So that Pip would not get into trouble.
- 6 They were caught by the soldiers and taken back to the prison-ship.
- 7 To play there, and perhaps to fall in love with Estella.
- 8 She was wearing a wedding dress and a bride's flowers in her hair, but the dress was yellow with age, and the flowers had died long ago.
- 9 He thought she was very proud, very pretty, and very rude.
- 10 He did not want to explain or describe the strange things and people he had seen at Miss Havisham's.

### CHAPTERS 4 TO 6 WHILE READING

- 1 The stranger in the village pub, to Joe, about the money he wanted to give to Pip.
- 2 Pip to Estella, when she hit him to try and make him cry.

- 3 Miss Havisham to Pip, about the table where her wedding cake still lay.
- 4 Miss Havisham to Estella, about breaking men's hearts.
- 5 Joe to Mrs Joe, giving her the money that Pip had earned at Miss Havisham's.
- 6 Mr Wopsle to Pip, about somebody being attacked in Joe's house.
- 7 Biddy to Pip, about his wish to become a gentleman.
- 8 Joe to Mr Jaggers, about not wanting any money if he lost Pip as his apprentice.
- 9 Mr Jaggers to Pip, about the two things Pip had to promise in return for his 'great expectations'.
- 10 Pip to Biddy, telling her she was jealous of his good luck.

### BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 7 TO 11

Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny any of the students' guesses at this stage. The 'yes' answers are numbers 1, 2 and 3.

### CHAPTERS 7 TO 11 WHILE READING

- 1 T
- 2 F Herbert Pocket thought Estella was a *hard, proud* girl, and *didn't want* to marry her himself.
- 3 F Wemmick lived in a *house called the Castle, in a village outside* London.
- 4 F Mr Jaggers was *never* robbed *although* he left his doors unlocked.
- 5 T
- 6 F Magwitch was *the convict that Pip had helped many years before*.
- 7 F Estella told Pip that she *had no heart, and could never fall in love*.
- 8 F Herbert planned to marry Clara *because he loved her*.
- 9 T
- 10 F Pip promised to visit Joe more often, *but* Biddy *didn't believe* him.

### BEFORE READING CHAPTER 12

Open answers. Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not confirm or deny students' guesses. They will find out as they read that the answer is number 2.

### CHAPTERS 12 TO 15 WHILE READING

- 1 *Who . . . ?* Bentley Drummle.
- 2 *Who . . . ?* The escaped convict, Abel Magwitch.
- 3 *What . . . ?* He would be arrested and hanged.
- 4 *Why . . . ?* Because he had hoped it was Miss Havisham who was giving him five hundred pounds a year, and because he had deserted Joe for a convict's money.

- 5 *Why . . . ?* Because Compeyson had lied at the trial, and received a much lighter punishment than Magwitch.
- 6 *What . . . ?* The connection was Compeyson, who had been Magwitch's criminal partner, and who was also the man who had broken Miss Havisham's heart.
- 7 *Why . . . ?* In order to continue the payments he was making to help Herbert become a partner in Clarrikers.
- 8 *Why . . . ?* Because she could not marry a man who expected her to love him, and she might as well marry Drummle as anyone.
- 9 *Who . . . ?* Wemmick.
- 10 *Why . . . ?* Because it was further away from the centre of London, and therefore safer, and also it would be easier to get Magwitch out of the country from there.
- 11 *What . . . ?* He found out that Compeyson was still following him, because Mr Wopsle told him he had seen Compeyson sitting behind Pip in the theatre.
- 12 *Who . . . ?* Molly, Mr Jaggers' housekeeper.

#### BEFORE READING CHAPTERS 16 TO 19

Encourage speculation and discussion. Students will find out as they read these chapters that the 'yes' answers are numbers 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9.

### After Reading

#### ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

3+8 1+9+15 4+10+16 6+11+17 2+12  
7+13+18+14 5+19

Pip and his friends rowed Magwitch down the River Thames, *in order to* catch the ship to Hamburg. *While* they were waiting for the Hamburg ship to reach them, a Customs boat suddenly appeared from nowhere *and* came up close to Pip's rowing-boat. The Customs officer tried to arrest Magwitch, *but* Magwitch fell into the river with Compeyson, *who* had been hidden under a cloak in the Customs boat. The Hamburg ship then crashed into Pip's boat, *which* sank, *and* in the confusion the two convicts disappeared. Magwitch was soon rescued, alive but badly injured, *but* Compeyson's body was not found until some days later. At Magwitch's trial the judge decided *that* Magwitch must be hanged, *and although* Pip tried very hard to get this punishment changed, everybody refused to help him. *However*, Magwitch died in his bed in the prison hospital *before* this terrible punishment could take place.

#### ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Possible paragraphs:

- 1 *Estella thought Pip was a common working boy, and laughed at him.* At first she felt no pity for him when he fell desperately in love with her, but in the end she had warmer feelings for him.

- 2 *Mrs Joe Gargery* was Pip's older sister. She had taken Pip to live with her when she married the blacksmith. *She brought Pip up 'by hand', and often scolded him.*
- 3 *Mr Jaggers* knew that all Pip's expenses were being paid by Magwitch, but he allowed Pip to think that the money came from Miss Havisham. Like Wemmick, he kept his professional and home lives separate, and *used to wash away his clients and his work every evening before leaving the office.*
- 4 *Herbert Pocket* worked in a counting-house, where *he was looking about him for a good opportunity of making his fortune in the City.* His friendship was very valuable to Pip, as he helped Pip accept the disappointments and cope with the difficulties of life.
- 5 *Miss Havisham's* life had been ruined by a broken engagement, and because she wanted to take her revenge on all men, *she encouraged Estella to break Pip's heart.* However, when she realized how badly hurt Pip was, she regretted her action.
- 6 *Wemmick* gave Pip a lot of useful advice, which Pip did not always take. He lived in a small house at Walworth, which Pip visited. However, *he never spoke of the Castle at the office, and never thought about the office at the Castle.*
- 7 *Biddy* would have been happy to marry Pip, but accepted that he was too blinded by his love for Estella to think of her. *She refused Pip's request to teach Joe better manners, because she thought Joe's manners were fine as they were.*
- 8 *Joe Gargery* was a gentle, good-hearted man, who loved Pip and treated him as his own son. *He comforted Pip whenever he could, and tried to protect him from being punished,* but was not always successful.
- 9 *Magwitch* had led a life of crime and been in and out of prison all his life. He had a fierce and violent character, but there was some goodness in him. *He was Estella's father, but he thought she had died many years ago,* and in Pip, he tried to find a son to replace the daughter he had loved and lost.
- 10 *Mr Pumblechook* changed his behaviour towards Pip when he heard of Pip's great expectations. *He was hoping to find a young gentleman who would put money into his business,* and so he kept on flattering and congratulating Pip on his good fortune.

#### ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to this cloze passage are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the structure of the sentence. Students might like to check each other's work and discuss alternative answers. Some alternatives are given below:

This is a good, strong blacksmith's *file*. I'm nearly through the chain already, *and* then I'll be able to walk properly (*better, easily*). Lucky finding that boy in the *churchyard (graveyard)*! Poor little boy! He looked so

frightened (scared, terrified, etc.) when I jumped up from the gravestone and caught hold of him. I *must* have looked very fierce. I was *desperate* for food! Pity I had to *scare* (frighten, threaten, etc.) him a bit, but I didn't *hurt* him at all. I wanted to *make* (be) quite sure he would keep my *secret*. Sad really – says he's lost his *parents*. Buried in the churchyard, they are.

Anyway, (However, But) he's brought me the food I *needed* (wanted). That sister of his is a *good* cook. I've eaten all the meat *pie*, the bread and cheese, and I've *drunk* the brandy. I feel a lot *better* (stronger) now. I hadn't had a thing *to* eat since I escaped. I *must* remember the boy's name – Pip. Wish I *had* a son like him. Maybe one *day* I can find a way of *thanking* (repaying) him for helping me.

And because of him, I now know I'm not *the* only escaped convict out on the *marshes*. Someone must have got away last *night*. The boy said it was a *young* man, and I think it's that *wicked* (evil, villain, rat, liar, etc.) Compeyson! At last! This is my *chance* (opportunity) to finish with him! If this *mist* (fog) weren't so thick, I could find *him* at once, and smash his handsome, *smiling* (deceitful, etc.) face! But as soon as it's *light* (day, daylight), I'll search the marshes, and when I catch up with him, he'll be *sorry* he tricked me! I don't care *if* they catch me, as long as *they* catch him as well. Death would *be* too easy, too quick a punishment *for* him. I want to see him *suffer* (rot) on that prison-ship for years and years!

#### ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Students can complete these conversations how they like. Possible answers would be:

PIP: How long has Mr Jaggers' housekeeper worked for him?

WEMMICK: Molly? Oh, for years. Ever since her trial, in fact.

PIP: Her trial? What was she accused of?

WEMMICK: Murder, Mr Pip. She was jealous of her husband and another woman, and was accused of murdering this woman.

PIP: And what happened at the trial? Was she found guilty?

WEMMICK: No, innocent. The case against her wasn't proved. Mr Jaggers was her lawyer, you see, and he's a clever man.

PIP: Did Molly have any children?

WEMMICK: Yes, a three-year-old girl, who disappeared at the time of the murder. Molly was accused of murdering her too, but it wasn't proved. But how did you know about the daughter?

PIP: I didn't know. But I've seen a young woman who looks very like Molly – with exactly the same eyes and hands.

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MR JAGGERS: Yes, Mr Pip, what can I do for you?

PIP: I want to know if Estella is the daughter of your housekeeper, Molly.

MR JAGGERS: How do you know my housekeeper has a daughter?

PIP: Wemmick told me. And I'm sure it's Estella.

MR JAGGERS: Well, yes, you're right. It is Estella. She was adopted by Miss Havisham when she was three.

PIP: Why didn't Molly look after her daughter herself?

MR JAGGERS: Because she wanted the child to have the chance of a better life. And Miss Havisham wanted to adopt a girl, so . . .

PIP: And do you know who Estella's father is?

MR JAGGERS: No, I don't. Why? Do you know who he is?

PIP: Yes, it's Abel Magwitch.

MR JAGGERS: Well, well, well. And are you going to tell Estella?

PIP: Open answer. Encourage students to discuss Pip's possible response here, and the pros and cons of telling Estella that her father is an escaped convict.

#### ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage discussion.

#### ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Possible answers:

- Mrs Joe Gargery stopped scolding Joe and Pip after she had been attacked by Orlick. She even became quite grateful for people's attentions to her, and died quietly in Joe's arms.
- At first Pip attached too much importance to money, polite manners and a good position in society. Through his disappointments, however, he came to realize that a person's character is more important than his or her wealth.
- Estella was extremely arrogant and scornful at first, but her unhappy marriage to Bentley Drummle helped her to understand other people's feelings better, and by the end of the story she was beginning to treat Pip with sympathy, respect, and even warmth.
- Although in the early part of the story Miss Havisham was a proud, unforgiving woman, intent on revenge, Pip's unhappiness made her realize how badly she had treated him in encouraging Estella to break his heart, and so she asked his forgiveness.
- Abel Magwitch was a hardened criminal, who was nevertheless touched by the small boy's willingness to help him. The memory of Pip, as a kind of adopted son, kept the convict going during his period of punishment, and made his attitude towards other people softer and more trusting. His behaviour was so changed that, once Pip had really got to know him, Pip became fond of him, and was very sad when he died.

#### ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers. Encourage discussion.