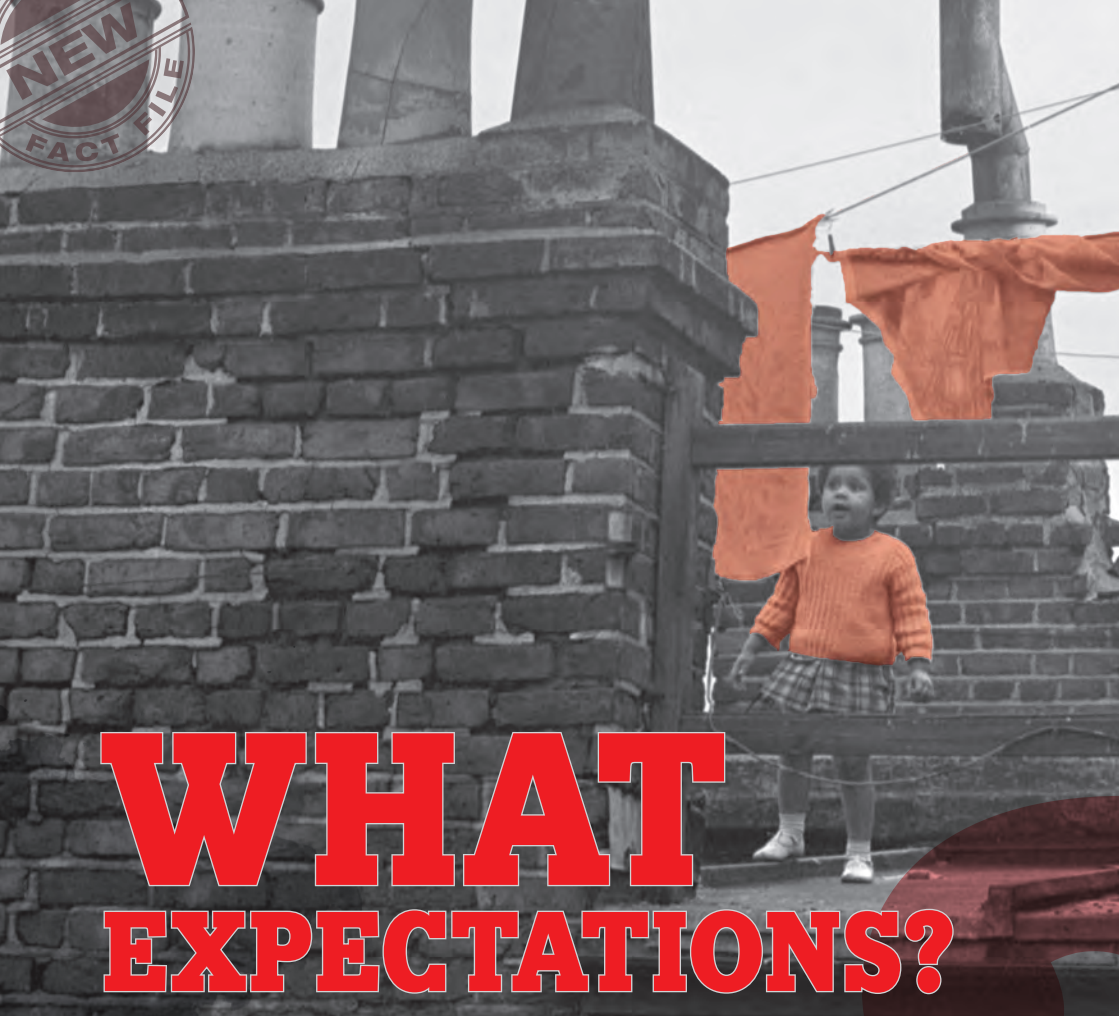


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WHAT EXPECTATIONS?

Children – especially orphaned, abandoned and neglected children – have a key role in Dickens’s novels. Thanks to Dickens’s portrayal of young characters such as Pip, Oliver Twist and Little Nell, he helped change British attitudes toward children. His caring portraits of the poor, particularly poor children, moved the upper classes to start correcting some of the social problems responsible for the suffering of both children and the lower classes. The writer was very critical of the British government, which offered no kind of help for abandoned children, leaving them in the hands of church parishes and charitable organizations. He is considered to be one of history’s greatest reformers, having done a lot more for children than any king, queen or politician of the time. He questioned and criticized the basic conditions of Victorian life, such as **class privilege** and the effects of capitalism.



- **attitudes:** opinions
- **charitable:** (here) that do good acts to poor people
- **key:** very important
- **neglected:** not cared for
- **parishes:** areas with a church
- **portrayal:** (here) descriptions
- **reformers:** people who improve the law by changing it
- **robbery:** crime of taking things that are not one's own

Class privilege

is how certain social classes can access important resources while others can't. The privilege, or opportunity, is related to our social class.

Think of examples of how this may happen in the real world?

Can you think of other types of privilege?

Dickens most likely took the figure of the neglected child from Romantic poetry (from William Blake and William Wordsworth in particular). A growing interest in children was one of the features of the evolving spirit of the middle class in nineteenth-century England. Before that, children were thought of as uninteresting, undeveloped, or incomplete adults. During this century children began to be recognized as needing special care. However, they were also thought to be disobedient and open to temptation and they often turned to crime, especially robbery and murder.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

ESTELLA



PIP



MRS JOE



JOE
GARGERY



MR JAGGERS

MISS HAVISHAM

WEMMICK



HERBERT
POCKET

ABEL MAGWITCH



BEFORE READING

- 1  Read the descriptions of some of the characters. Can you match them to the correct picture A to F? How do you know? Tell a friend.



- 1 Herbert Pocket is a cheerful and kind boy and Pip's best friend.
- 2 Estella Havisham is beautiful but cold and distant with Pip.
- 3 Abel Magwitch is a violent man but grateful to Pip for helping him.
- 4 Miss Havisham, a rich but unhappy woman, wants Pip to fall in love with Estella.
- 5 Joe Gargery is a simple, honest man and very kind to Pip.
- 6 Pip is a poor orphan who wants to change his life.



2 Read the sentences about the characters in Exercise 1. Choose the correct definition (1 or 2) of the underlined words.

- a** Joe was the village blacksmith.
- 1 someone whose job is to make things out of metal
- 2 someone who works in a factory
- b** Miss Havisham always wore her wedding dress and veil.
- 1 thin piece of cloth worn over a woman's head
- 2 thin scarf worn around a woman's neck
- c** Estella was beautiful and also very proud.
- 1 tall and very thin
- 2 self-important, thinking oneself better than others
- d** Abel Magwitch was an escaped convict when Pip first met him.
- 1 someone who has run away from home
- 2 someone who has been sent to prison
- e** Herbert lived in a rather shabby building called Barnard's Inn.
- 1 old and in bad condition
- 2 with many floors
- f** Pip dreamt of living the life of a gentleman.
- 1 man of good social position
- 2 man who is very kind

3 Look at the picture and find this character in other pictures in the book. Then answer the questions below.

- a** What do you think his job is?
- b** What do you think his relationship to Pip is?



MR JAGGERS

I A MEETING IN THE CHURCHYARD

① My father's family name was Pirrip, and my name is Philip. Because these names were difficult for me to say when I was a child, I called myself Pip. From then on I was known as Pip.

My parents were both dead and I lived with my sister. She was twenty years older than me and married to Joe Gargery, the local blacksmith. He was a sweet-tempered•, easy-going man with brown hair and blue eyes. My sister Mrs Joe Gargery was the opposite. She had black hair and eyes and was very bad-tempered. She almost always wore an apron• over her dress because she was always busy. I often felt the power of her strong hands on the side of my head. Joe did too, but he never said anything to her. I couldn't understand why he married my sister – I suppose she made him.

We lived in a village on the edge• of the marshes. The land there was flat and without much vegetation because it was near the sea. It was a grey, windy, wild place.

I found the grave• of my parents one foggy evening. It was half-hidden in the long grass of the old churchyard about a mile from the village. I read the names on the tombstone• – Philip Pirrip and his wife Georgiana. Seeing them made me sad and I started to cry.

Suddenly a terrible voice shouted, 'Be quiet! Or I'll cut your throat•!'

I looked up and saw a man coming towards me out of the fog. He had no hat and old, broken shoes. His clothes were old and covered in mud• and there was a big iron ring on his leg.

- **apron:** something to wear to protect clothes (usually when cooking)
- **edge:** end; border
- **grave:** place where a dead body is buried in the ground

- **mud:** very soft, wet dirt
- **sweet-tempered:** pleasant, kind and gentle
- **throat:** front part of the neck
- **tombstone:** large stone put over the place where a person is buried

He took hold of my chin with one of his hands. I was very frightened.

‘Oh! Don’t cut my throat, sir,’ I cried. ‘Please don’t, sir!’

‘What’s your name?’ said the man. ‘Quick!’

‘Pip, sir.’

‘What did you say?’ said the man, putting his face close to mine. ‘Speak up!’

‘Pip, sir.’

‘Where do you live?’ he asked. ‘Show me!’

I pointed to the village in the distance.

The man looked at me for a moment. Then he picked me up, turned me upside down and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them, only a small piece of bread. After putting me on top of a tombstone, he took the bread and ate it hungrily. I was shaking with fear as I watched him. I had to try hard to stop myself from crying.

‘Where’s your mother?’

‘Over there, sir!’

He started running away, but then stopped and looked over his shoulder.

‘There, sir!’ I explained, pointing to her grave. ‘Georgiana. That’s my mother.’

‘Oh!’ he said coming back. ‘And is your father there too?’

‘Yes, sir,’ I replied.

‘Who do you live with?’ he asked.

‘My sister, sir. Mrs Joe Gargery, wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith, sir.’

‘Blacksmith, eh?’ he said and he looked down at the ring on his leg.

Then he took hold of my arms and pushed me backwards.

‘Do you know what a file• is?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘And do you know what wittles• are?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘Well, get me a file and some wittles,’ he said, holding my arms tighter. ‘And bring them to me tomorrow morning early. And don’t tell anyone that you have seen me. If you don’t do exactly what I’ve told you, I’ll cut out your heart, roast it and eat it! Now, what do you say?’

He was hurting me, so I quickly agreed to do what he asked. Then he let me go. I sat and watched him as he limped to the low churchyard wall and climbed over it. As soon as he disappeared in the darkness, I jumped off the tombstone and started to run. I didn’t stop until I got home.

THE MAN

Who do you think the man is?

What is he doing in the churchyard?

Why does he want a file?

Is Pip going to tell anyone about him?

Joe’s forge was closed when I got back from the churchyard. I opened the kitchen door and went in. Joe was sitting there alone.

‘Mrs Joe is looking for you, Pip,’ he said. ‘She’s been out several times.’

‘Has she?’

‘Yes, Pip,’ said Joe. ‘And she’s taken the stick with her this time!’

- **file:** metal tool used for making wood or metal smooth
- **forge:** place where blacksmith works
- **limped:** walked with difficulty because of an injury
- **stick:** thin piece of wood
- **wittles:** informal Victorian expression for food

Just at that moment the door opened and Mrs Joe burst in•. She looked very angry.

‘Where have you been, you young monkey?’ she shouted.

‘Only to the churchyard,’ I replied.

‘The churchyard!’ she repeated. ‘What were you doing there at this time of night? I’ve spent the last hour looking for you! Worry and work! That’s all I get for looking after you!’

She put the stick back in the corner and started to prepare tea. She cut two slices of bread, put some butter on them and gave one to Joe and the other to me. I remembered the terrible man in the churchyard and I was too afraid to eat mine. I knew that I had to keep it for him. So I quickly put it into the pocket of my trousers while Joe wasn’t looking.



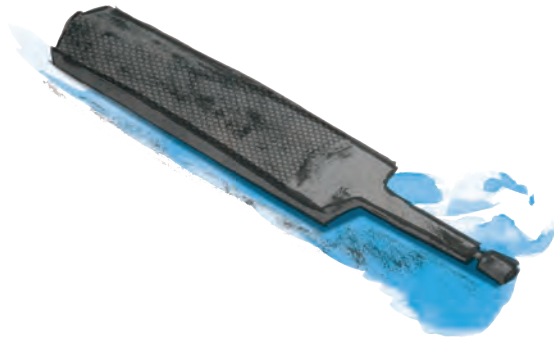
The next day was Christmas Day. I got up before it was light and crept•
downstairs. I stole some bread, some cheese and a beautiful pork pie. The
pie was a present from Uncle Pumblechook, a rich corn merchant• in the
town. Then I went to the forge to get the file.

It was cold that morning and the fog was thicker than usual. When I
got to the churchyard, I saw the man sitting on a tombstone in front of me.
He seemed to be asleep, so I went up to him quietly and touched him on
the shoulder. He jumped up immediately and I saw that it was a different
man! He was dressed like the other one and he also had a big iron ring on
his leg, but he was younger. When he saw me, he ran away quickly into the
fog. I walked a bit further into the churchyard and soon I saw the other
one. Without saying anything, I handed him the file and the bag of food.
He pushed the bread and the cheese into his mouth together, and then he
started on the pie.

‘I’m glad you like it,’ I said.

‘I do, my boy. Thank you,’ he replied with his mouth full of pie.

‘I have to go now,’ I said, but he wasn’t listening. He was too busy
finishing the pie. I started to walk away. When I turned to look at him, he
was trying to cut the ring off his leg with the file.



- **burst in:** suddenly came in
- **corn merchant:** person who buys and sells corn
- **crept:** moved very quietly and slowly



AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

grave villain ditch smart shabby
file affectionate abroad

- a It was from the inscription on their that Pip got an idea of what his parents looked like.
- b Together with some wittles, the convict asked Pip to bring him a
- c The word is used to describe a criminal or a bad character.
- d Estella went to learn to be a lady.
- e Barnard's Inn was a very building.

2 In pairs, create three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Complete the following sentences with the simple past forms of the verbs in the box. There is one additional verb that you don't need to use.

get turn stand look make leave take

- a Joe very out of place in Miss Havisham's room.
- b During the next few days, we to know each other quite well.
- c Nobody any notice of us as we moved down the river.
- d I up my mind to come back one day and see you.
- e He at the top of the stairs and watched us go down.
- f I round and saw Herbert standing at his bedroom door.

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5**1** Complete the sentences below by choosing the correct answer.

- 1 As I in bed that night I kept remembering Miss Havisham's words.
A lie B lied C lay D laid
- 2 I stopped to Wemmick on my way out.
A talking B talk C at talking D to talk
- 3 He's finding it difficult to started because he has no money.
A get B be C make D let
- 4 He gave me a lot of good about where to go in London.
A suggestions B information C news D advice
- 5 I am sorry there isn't furniture, but I hope you'll be comfortable.
A great B a C much D such
- 6 'Twenty pounds more than enough.'
A are B gets C make D is
- 7 When I woke up the clocks were five.
A striking B making C ringing D touching
- 8 The man picked me up, turned me down and emptied my pockets.
A inside B upside C outside D wayside
- 9 'Worry and work! That's all I for looking after you!'
A get B have C take D can
- 10 There were lots of delicious things to eat, but I was too worried about the missing pork pie to enjoy them.
A very B much C only D not
- 11 'I should go to the forge', I thought, but then I began to invent many reasons for staying in the town
A lonely B there C instead D tonight