



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

BY CHARLES DICKENS



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Written by Nicole Guertin

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Thematic Ideas**

Objectives: Understanding thematic ideas
 Developing positions for debate
 Focusing reading

Activity

Choose one of the thematic statements from the worksheet and write a position paper on it. The paper should offer at least three specific, detailed examples that support your opinion on the issue.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – XIX**Theme****Objective:** Identifying main ideas and themes**Activity**

Some authors use chapter titles to give an overview of a chapter's content or to point toward a significant incident or theme. Sometimes, a chapter title is taken directly from the dialogue or descriptions in the story. For example, Chapter I of *Great Expectations* could have been entitled:

My Earliest Memory

Or

The Horrible Young Man

As you read Chapters I through XIX, write a title for each chapter to help you summarize what you've read. At the end of Chapter XIX, Dickens records, "This is the end of the first stage of Pip's expectations." Come up with an original title for this section (Chapters I – XIX).

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter VIII**Characterization and Point of View**

Objective: Drawing conclusions from details

Activity

Assume the persona of Pip, and write a diary entry about his feelings after his first visit to Satis House. Use quotes from the chapter to make his descriptions of the events and conversation more vivid.

Then, assume Estella's persona, and write an entry in her diary about the same visit. Again, use descriptions and quotes from the book to support her feelings.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – XIV**Plot****Objective:** Understanding character interrelationships**Activity**

Draw a diagram showing the interrelationships among the following characters at the close of chapter XIV: Pip, Estella, Miss Havisham, Joe, Mrs. Joe, the convict in the marshes, Orlick, Mr. Jaggers, Bidley, Mr. Pumblechook, Camilla and Raymond, Miss Sarah Pocket. Use the following legend:

- An solid line from one character to another depicts a friendship.
- ==== A double line indicates mutual friendship.
- - - A broken line indicates dislike.
- A dotted line arrow indicates mutual dislike.
- () Parenthesis around a name indicate that a character is no longer present. (character is absent or dead)
- ?— A question mark means that the reader is unsure at that point.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – XVI**Plot and Characterization**

Objectives: Summarizing details
 Analyzing characters

Activity

In Chapter XVI, after his sister has been attacked, Pip quickly narrows the suspects to two: Orlick and the man in the Three Jolly Bargemen who had shown Pip the file. He comments later that the police, however, considered Joe to be the prime suspect. Imagine that you are a detective working on the case. Fill in the chart below for each of the suspects listed. The first one has been done for you.

At this point, which of the suspects do you believe is guilty? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XX – XXII**Characterization and Inference**

Objectives: Understanding how an author creates believable and realistic characters
 Making inferences based on evidence
 Contrasting characters

Activity

Although he has met Mr. Jaggers before, Pip has not yet seen the lawyer in Jaggers' own element. In Chapter XX, as Pip arrives in London, he is faced with a much fuller picture of his new guardian. Dickens creates Jaggers' persona through the things Jaggers says and does, through what other characters say about Jaggers and the ways in which they react to him, through Pip's impressions, and through the descriptions of Jaggers' physical environment. Fill in the chart below with as many examples of these methods of characterization as you can find. For each example, explain what inference(s) you can draw about Jaggers' personality and character traits. An example has been done for you.

Finally, compile your findings into a one-or two-sentence summary about Jaggers' character.

Jaggers is a very successful, dishonest lawyer who is highly skilled at keeping up the appearance of respectability. He has neither the time nor the interest to get involved in the emotional lives of his clients or anyone else; he cares only for winning cases and making money.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XXVI – XXXVI**Symbolism and Foreshadowing**

Objectives: Recognizing and interpreting symbols
 Understanding how symbolism can contribute to foreshadowing

Activity

Washing one's hands is a mundane task that is a regular part of everyday life. Most people wash their hands several times a day, at pre-determined times such as before meals or when they are dirty. Hand washing can also have a symbolic meaning. In the Bible, Pontius Pilate, the governor, is too afraid to stand up to the people who want to kill Jesus. Instead of risking his political position or his own life by releasing Jesus, he asks for a bowl of water and washes his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of the blood of this just person," he says. Then he gives in to the mob's desires and sends Jesus to his death. Though Pilate was guilty of giving in to selfish agendas and not standing up for an innocent person, he didn't want to be punished for it. He wanted symbolically to wash away his guilt. The phrase "to wash one's hands of" a matter is used to express a person's desire to be rid of any responsibility in a situation that involves wrongdoing.

In this section (Chapters XX – XXXIX), you will encounter several instances of handwashing. Use the chart below to record each one and explain the possible symbolic meaning behind it. What symbolic dirt is the person trying to remove by washing his or her hands? Could any of these instances also be foreshadowing something? If so, explain what the handwashing could be suggesting about future events.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XXXV**Characterization**

Objective: Summarizing details

Activity

Examine the obituaries in your local newspaper. Notice especially the type of information they include and exclude and the tone in which they are written. Following these examples, write an obituary for Mrs. Joe to be included in the local paper the day after her death.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XLI

Characterization

Objective: Interpreting details from the text

Activity

When he is finally able to speak to Herbert privately about Magwitch's revelation, Pip decides that he can accept no more of the convict's money. He laments, "I am heavily in debt—very heavily for me, who now have no expectations—and I have been bred to no calling, and I am fit for nothing."

Imagine that Herbert has called on your services to help Pip compile a resume as he goes in search of a career with which he can support himself. Attached is a sample resume. Notice that it includes job objectives, past positions, current talents or skills, and personal interests. Based on the information in the previous chapters, write a resume for Pip. What kind of job do you think he would be qualified for? What do you think he would write as his job objective?

If it is available at your school, you may wish to use the *Resume Wizard* in *Microsoft Word*. Click on *File* in the menu bar. Click *New*. Click *Other Documents*. Double click *Resume Wizard*. Follow the instructions.

If you do not have access to a computer or to Microsoft Word, use the blank resume form that is included.