

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Vocabulary List

Below is a list of more complex words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

apprentice	a person who is learning a trade from a skilled employer, working for a fixed period of time at low wages
benefactor	a person who gives money or other help to a person or cause
blacksmith	a person who makes and repairs things in iron by hand
confiscated	taken or seized by someone with authority
estuary	the tidal mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the stream
fugitive	a person who has escaped from captivity or is in hiding
magistrate	a civil officer who administers the law
lawyer	a person who practises or studies law

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Plot Sequencing Answer Sheet

1. Pip lives with his sister and her husband, Joe. One day, a big grey man approaches Pip when he visits his parents' graves. The man asks Pip to bring him food and a file to cut off the cuffs on his ankles.
2. Pip agrees and later finds out that the man is an escaped convict from a nearby prison ship. The police find the man and Pip makes sure he knows that he never told on him.
3. Pip meets Miss Havisham and Estella at Sati's House. Although Estella is cold towards him, he visits regularly for a few years before his apprenticeship starts and Estella leaves for London.
4. One evening in a pub, Pip and Joe are approached by a lawyer, who tells them Pip has a mysterious benefactor and is to learn to become a gentleman. Pip thinks that it must be Miss Havisham and that she wants him to marry Estella.
5. Pip moves to London to live with Herbert and Matthew Pocket, who help Pip to dress better, to behave better, to speak French, and to ride a horse. All the things a gentleman should do.
6. Pip later learns that his mysterious benefactor is in fact the escaped prisoner, Abel Magwitch. Once he was released, he made money farming in Australia in order to fund Pip. Alongside this, Pip learns that Sati's House caught fire and Miss Havisham died.
7. Although he's ashamed to be funded by a criminal, Pip helps Abel return to Australia. However, when their boat is stopped by the police, Abel falls overboard and eventually dies in hospital, bringing Pip's funding to an end.
8. Pip returns to the village where he grew up and visits the ruins of Sati's House. There he is reunited with Estella, who is now a lot nicer to Pip.

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Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

Q1: What signalled that a prisoner had escaped?	
Answer:	The booming sound of a cannon being fired from the prison-ship moored in the estuary.
Q2: Why is the prisoner interested to know that Joe is a blacksmith?	
Answer:	He knows that Pip would be able to bring him the right tools to cut through his chains.
Q3: What does Pip find strange about Miss Havisham when he first sees her?	
Answer:	She was wearing a wedding dress, veil and jewels, but her wedding dress is faded and yellow with age.
Q4: What time was Miss Havisham's clock stopped at and why?	
Answer:	Twenty to nine/8.40pm; this was the time she received a letter from her fiance breaking off their marriage. Everything froze in time at that moment.
Q5: Turn to page 65. Find an example of personification.	
Answer:	"The wind shook the windows and blew the smoke from the fireplace back down the chimney."
Q6: Why did Abel Magwitch illegally return to London?	
Answer:	He is in fact Pip's benefactor who wanted to repay Pip for helping him many years ago. He returned to London to see the gentleman he has helped Pip to become.
Q7: What do you think the clicking sound in Magwitch's throat means?	
Answer:	It happens after someone says something nice and endearing to him. He must be emotional or wants to cry which explains the clicking noise.
Q8: What happens to Pip after Magwitch dies?	
Answer:	The police confiscate Magwitch's money so Pip's funding is cut off. Left with nothing, he returns back to the village he grew up in.
Q9: What differences does Pip see in Estella compared to when they were younger?	
Answer:	She is not tall and elegant; there was a sense of sadness compared to her being cold and emotionless; where she would never smile at Pip when would play, she smiles at Pip at the end of the story.

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Diary Entry Activity

The story is told by a third person narrator. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Pip's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in *Great Expectations* from the list below and ask your class to write it from Pip's point of view.

- Pip finding out the big grey man is an escaped prisoner from a nearby prison ship.
- Pip moving to London to become a gentleman.
- Pip helping Abel to return back to Australia.
- Pip being reunited with Estella at the ruins of Sati's House.

The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character