

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Directions: Answer the following as thoroughly and completely as possible using fully developed paragraphs after you finish reading the novel. Be sure to include textual evidence in the novel to support your opinion. Use quotations from the novel as needed to support your analysis. Be prepared to turn in your responses the first week of school in August. This will be one of your first grades during the first quarter of the year. Email me if you have questions over the summer.

1. *Great Expectations* is a classic bildungsroman focusing on Pip and his development from a young boy into a man. Consider Pip's character and his growth from the beginning and middle of the text to the end. What factors play a role in his development? What are the key points that lead him to become the man he is when he returns home from the east at the very end of the novel? Explain. In a paragraph(s), analyze how Pip changes as a character from the beginning of the text to the end.
2. Social class, reputation, and proper-vs-improper behavior are all significant issues throughout the novel. Select a scene where these concepts are exhibited and explain its significance to the theme of the work as a whole. In other words, how do these issues help develop the themes or characters throughout the novel. Don't just identify a scene—explain how the scene functions as a part of the overall novel.
3. Select one of the supporting characters—Herbert, Estella, Miss Havisham, Wemmick, Jaggers, Biddy, Magwitch—and explain his/her significance to the novel as a whole. What role does he/she play? How does his/her presence impact other characters in the novel?
4. In this novel, things are often not what they seem. Discuss how the theme of "expectations" is illustrated by and through the major characters in this book. How are Pip's expectations different from and similar to those of Joe Gargery, Miss Havisham, Estella and Magwitch? Explain. How do these various "expectations" connect to the development of the characters throughout the novel? Explain.