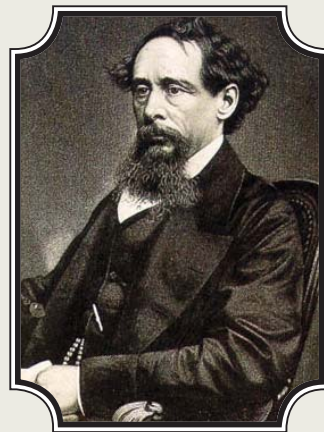


# Introduction

## 查爾斯 · 狄更斯

Charles Dickens  
(1812–1870)



Charles Dickens is considered to be one of the greatest English novelists of the Victorian period. His works are characterized by attacks on social evils, injustice, and hypocrisy.

Charles Dickens was born in Landport on 7 February 1812. He couldn't receive an appropriate school education in his childhood because he was born to a poor family. He began to work at the age of 12 in a factory where he was paid six shillings a week.

In the early 19th century, British capitalism began to flourish, bringing prosperity to the big cities in England. However, there were also dark sides to capitalism. Child labor thrived, and the working class suffered from great poverty. With an insight born from his own bitter experiences with social injustice, Charles Dickens began to write short stories in order to educate himself and was determined to achieve his quest for self-education and pull himself out of poverty.

His best-known works include *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*. Dickens' novels are highly respected for vivid descriptions of the daily life of working-class people. He knew from his own experience their joys and sorrows. Dickens' brave and humorous portrayals also examine injustice and social contradictions.

He was often criticized for trying to appeal to the sentimental and melodramatic tastes of his readers. But the reason Dickens, along with Shakespeare, is held in high regard as a great English novelist is that he created characters full of humanity and

humor. These characters exhibit the faults, resilience, and vitality of real human beings.

On June 9, 1870, Charles Dickens died. His death was mourned by the entire world, and he was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey, alongside England's other great writers.

***Great Expectations*** is considered by many critics to be Dickens' finest novel because of its tightly structured plot. The story is about a low-born young man, Pip, who rises out of a rough, deprived childhood. His desire for improvement in his social status takes him to a city, where he becomes a gentleman after a lawyer appears one day with the news that he inherited a large fortune.

However, social advancement and wealth become superficial standards of value that Pip learns to look beyond. He finds that it is not Miss Havisham, an eccentric old woman, who he assumed to be his secret benefactor, but Magwitch, an escaped convict whom he once helped briefly.

Also he discovers that Estella, Miss Magwitch's charge, who he has been in love with and imagines belonging to the upper class, is actually the daughter of the convict. Estella has been taught by Miss Havisham to break men's hearts as restitution for Miss Havisham's having been abandoned in the past.

The negative examples of Miss Havisham, a bitter woman who lives a life of hatred, and the coarse and cruel Bentley Drummle, who becomes Estella's husband, help Pip to see the absence of humanity hidden behind the fantasies of high-class life.

After many years of wandering, Pip finally returns home. He realizes the true inner worth of human beings and the ideals of a gentleman, through the examples of Magwitch, the convict, and Joe, Pip's poor uncle. Pip achieves this realization when he is able to understand that the care shown to him by the convict, whom he despised, and the sincere love of the village blacksmith Joe are truly great expectations.





# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK


## 本書使用說明

Chapter Two

1

**A Change of Fortune<sup>1</sup>**

The next few months were mixed with<sup>2</sup> pain<sup>3</sup> and pleasure. Every day, I went to Miss Havisham's house to play with Estella. Every day, she was very mean to me. But despite<sup>4</sup> her cruelty<sup>5</sup>, I was captivated<sup>6</sup> by her and I wanted to see her. Also, Miss Havisham spoke to me more and more as she got used to<sup>7</sup> me.



2

1. fortune ['fɜ:tʃən] (n) 命運

2. be mixed with 拌雜著……

3. pain [peɪn] (n) 痛苦；煩惱

4. despite [dɪ'spaɪt] (prep.) 儘管

5. cruelty ['kruəlti] (n) 殘酷；殘忍

6. captivate ['kæptə'veɪt] (v) 使著迷

7. get used to 習慣於……

34 Great Expectations

Chapter Two  
A Change of Fortune

One day, she asked me to push her in her wheelchair into the room next door. The room was dark and dusty<sup>8</sup> and there were cobwebs<sup>9</sup> everywhere. There was a long table. On it was a wedding feast<sup>10</sup>. Mice and rats<sup>11</sup> were chewing<sup>12</sup> on the rotten<sup>13</sup> cake in the middle. However the room did not surprise me at all<sup>14</sup> as Miss Havisham was a strange woman.

3

8. dusty ['dʌsti] (a) 滿是灰塵的

9. cobweb ['kɒb.web] (n) 蜘蛛網

10. feast [fi:st] (n) 盛宴；筵席

11. rat [ræt] (n) 鼠

12. chew [tʃu:] (v) 咀嚼

13. rotten ['rɒtn] (a) 腐爛的；發臭的

14. not ... at all 一點也不

35

## 1 Original English texts 3 Response notes

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

## 2 Explanation of the vocabulary

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD



## **Audio Recording**

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.



# ***Before You Read***



## **Pip**

My parents died when I was very young, so I went to live with my older sister and her husband, Joe. Joe is kind and I love him as a father. One day, Someone took an interest in me and is paying for my education to be a proper British gentleman. I wonder who this person is.



## **Estella**

I was raised by Miss Havisham who took me in when I was very little. I am very beautiful and many men want to be with me. However, Miss Havisham taught me how to be cruel to men.





## Miss Havisham

I'm an old lady. I have hated all men and can't stand to see couples who love each other.



## Joe

I am a blacksmith for this village. Pip is my brother-in-law, but he is so young that my wife and I care for him like he was our son.



## Magwitch

I was a prisoner but I managed to escape twice. The first time, I met Pip. The second time I escaped, I went to Australia to become a sheep farmer. I became very wealthy.



## Biddy

I am a part-time teacher in the village. When Joe's wife became sick, I moved into their house to take care of her.



# Chapter One



## Pip and Estella

My story begins when I was seven years old. I was in the graveyard<sup>1</sup> of the church that was very close to my home. Both of my parents were buried there.

Suddenly I started crying because I felt afraid and the noise of my sobs<sup>2</sup> filled the graveyard.

“Who is making that awful<sup>3</sup> noise<sup>4</sup>?” said a low voice. A terrible looking man came toward me.



“Don’t move or I’ll cut your throat<sup>5</sup>,”  
he said. He was dirty and was wearing leg  
irons<sup>6</sup>. He must have<sup>7</sup> escaped<sup>8</sup> from the  
local<sup>9</sup> prison!

He grabbed<sup>10</sup> me and I cried, “Please  
don’t kill me!”

“What’s your name? Quickly!”  
he demanded<sup>11</sup>.

“Pip,” I said.

“Where is your home?” he asked.  
I pointed<sup>12</sup> to the nearby village.

He then turned me upside down<sup>13</sup> to  
empty<sup>14</sup> my pockets. I only had a piece of  
bread and he quickly picked it up and  
devoured<sup>15</sup> it.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>graveyard</b> [ˈɡreɪv.jɑːrd] (n.)<br>墓地 | 8. <b>escape</b> [ɪˈskeɪp] (v.) 逃脫                       |
| 2. <b>sob</b> [sɒb] (n.)<br>嗚咽；啜泣（聲）          | 9. <b>local</b> [ˈləʊkəl] (a.) 當地的                       |
| 3. <b>awful</b> [ˈɑːfəl] (a.)<br>可怕的；嚇人的      | 10. <b>grab</b> [græb] (v.) 抓住<br>(grab-grabbed-grabbed) |
| 4. <b>noise</b> [nɔɪz] (n.) 躁音                | 11. <b>demand</b> [dɪˈmænd] (v.)<br>查問；盤問                |
| 5. <b>throat</b> [θrəʊt] (n.) 喉嚨              | 12. <b>point</b> [pɔɪnt] (v.) 指；指出                       |
| 6. <b>leg irons</b> 腳鐐                        | 13. <b>upside down</b> 顛倒                                |
| 7. <b>must have</b> + 過去分詞<br>絕對已經            | 14. <b>empty</b> [ˈempti] (v.) 倒空                        |
|   | 15. <b>devour</b> [dɪˈvaʊr] (v.)<br>狼吞虎嚥；吃光              |



“Where are your parents?” he asked.  
I pointed to the gravestones<sup>1</sup> in the churchyard.

“They are in the ground over there, sir,” I replied.

“So who do you live with?”

“My sister, sir. Wife of Joe Gargery, the blacksmith<sup>2</sup>, sir,” I told him.

“Blacksmith, eh? You know what a file<sup>3</sup> is?”

“Yes, sir,” I said.

“Then you bring me a file and some food and then I won’t kill you,” he said.

I agreed and then he let me go.

Just before I left he said again, “You bring me the file and food tonight, you hear. And don’t tell anyone you saw me. If you do, I’ll find you and tear<sup>4</sup> your heart and liver<sup>5</sup> out.”

1. **gravestone** [ˈɡreɪvˌstəʊn] (n.) 墓碑

2. **blacksmith** [ˈblækˌsmɪθ] (n.) 鐵匠；工匠

3. **file** [faɪl] (n.) 銼刀

4. **tear A out** 把A撕扯出來 (tear-tore-torn)

5. **liver** [ˈlɪvər] (n.) 肝臟

6. **absolutely** [ˌæbsəˈlu:tli] (adv.) 完全地

7. **terrify** [ˈterəfaɪ] (v.) 使害怕

8. **keep quiet** 保持安靜

9. **flee** [fli:] (v.) 逃走 (flee-fled-fled)

I was absolutely<sup>6</sup> terrified<sup>7</sup> so, once more, I promised to bring the things and to keep quiet<sup>8</sup>. Then I fled<sup>9</sup> from the graveyard.

I thought, "I have to bring him what he wants. If I don't, he might find me at home and kill me. He knows where I live."





I was worried. It would not be easy to sneak<sup>1</sup> the food out of the house. My sister was much older than me and often lost her temper<sup>2</sup>. If she caught me, she would punish<sup>3</sup> me. On the other hand<sup>4</sup>, her husband Joe was always kind to me. He often protected<sup>5</sup> me from my sister.

That night, when I tried to hide<sup>6</sup> some bread in my pocket, he said, "Pip! You are eating too fast. You couldn't have eaten all your bread so quickly! You'll get sick<sup>7</sup> if you're not careful."

My sister looked at me and said, "What's he been doing?"

"He's eating too quickly. I ate too quickly when I was a boy but not as fast as you!" Joe said.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>sneak</b> [sni:k] (v.)<br>偷偷取得；偷竊 | 5. <b>protect A from B</b><br>保護 A 不受 B (的傷害)   |
| 2. <b>lose one's temper</b><br>發脾氣；情緒失控 | 6. <b>hide</b> [haɪd] (v.) 隱藏<br>(hide-hid-hid) |
| 3. <b>punish</b> [ˈpʌnɪʃ] (v.)<br>懲罰；處罰 | 7. <b>get sick</b> 生病                           |
| 4. <b>on the other hand</b><br>另一方面     | 8. <b>pull A up by</b><br>用……把 A 拉上來            |
|   | 9. <b>dose</b> [dɒs] (v.) 服藥                    |



My sister pulled<sup>8</sup> me up from the table by my hair.

“Well, then! It’s time for a dosing<sup>9</sup>!” My sister made me drink a spoonful<sup>10</sup> of ‘tar’<sup>11</sup> water’ which was a disgusting<sup>12</sup>, thick<sup>13</sup>, dark liquid<sup>14</sup>. It was awful. I swallowed<sup>15</sup> it as quickly as I could.

10. **spoonful** [ˈspuːnful] (n.)

滿滿一匙的量

11. **tar** [tɑː] (n.) 焦油

12. **disgusting** [disˈgʌstɪŋ] (a.)

令人作噁的

13. **thick** [θɪk] (a.)

濃稠的；混濁的

14. **liquid** [ˈlɪkwɪd] (n.) 液體

15. **swallow** [ˈswɑːləʊ] (v.)

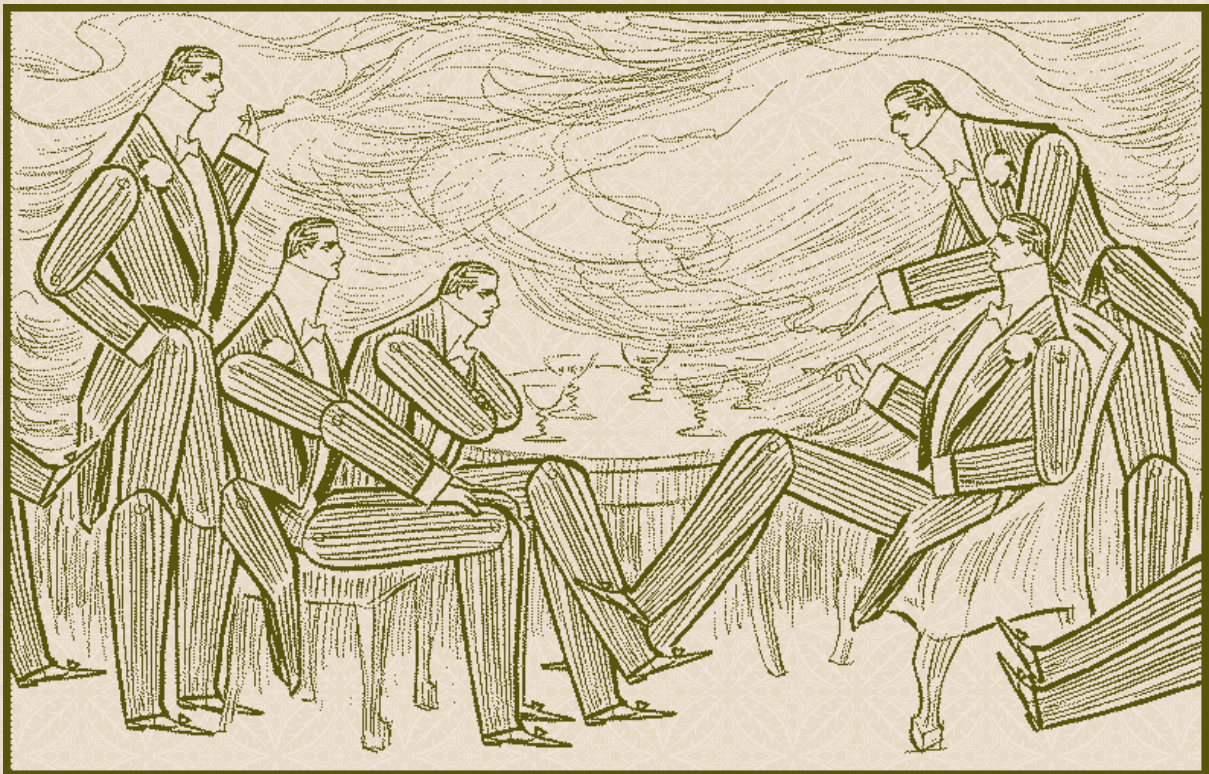
吞；嚥



## *Understanding the Story*

# The Gentlemen in the Victorian Age

**B**efore the Victorian Age in England, Pip's change from blacksmith's apprentice to English gentleman would have been impossible. A person's position in society was determined by their birth. Sons and daughters did what their fathers and mothers did.







However, in the Victorian Age, people who inherited a lot of money, or worked very hard, could raise their status.

To be a proper English gentleman, Pip had to have money. Once he got this money, he then needed to be educated in academic subjects like History and Literature.

He also had to learn how to behave. This included learning the proper way to speak, greet others, dress, eat his meals and all sorts of other everyday activities. This is why he went to study with Mr. Pocket.

A gentleman was considered as part of the upper class and was expected to behave as a refined person. Of course, not all gentlemen learned how to behave well, as in the case of Drummle.