

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

### For the Student

- 🔊 Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
- 🗣️ Talk about the story.
- ★ Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

### For the Teacher

**HELBLING e-ZONE** A state-of-the-art interactive learning environment with 1000s of free online self-correcting activities for your chosen readers.

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, and Tapescripts.  
[www.helblingreaders.com](http://www.helblingreaders.com)

For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult [Reading Matters](#), the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

### Level 4 Structures

Sequencing of future tenses	<i>Could / was able to / managed to</i>
Present perfect plus <i>yet, already, just</i>	<i>Had to / didn't have to</i>
First conditional	<i>Shall / could</i> for offers
Present and past passive	<i>May / can / could</i> for permission <i>Might</i> for future possibility
<i>How long?</i>	<i>Make and let</i>
<i>Very / really / quite</i>	Causative <i>have</i> <i>Want / ask / tell someone to do something</i>

Structures from lower levels are also included.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Charles Dickens** was born in Portsmouth on 7th February, 1812. He was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, was a clerk<sup>1</sup> in the Navy<sup>2</sup>. In 1814 the Dickens family moved to London and two years later to Chatham in Kent. Charles attended a private school for a few years there until the family moved back to London in 1822.

Two years later Charles's father was sent to a debtors' prison<sup>3</sup> for not paying his bills<sup>4</sup>. Charles was 12 years old at the time. The family had no money, so he had to leave school and get a job in a factory that made shoe polish<sup>5</sup>. The conditions there were very bad and the workers were very poor. It was a

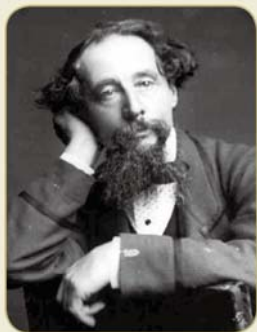
completely different world from the one Charles knew and he was often sad and lonely.

His father managed to leave the prison and Charles returned to school, but this experience had a great effect on him. He never forgot it and described it in several of his novels.

When he was 15, he left school and started work as a clerk in a law office. Then he worked as a reporter in the law courts. In 1836 his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, was published. It was a great success and the beginning of his career as a novelist.

Charles Dickens is much loved for his great contribution to classic English literature. Some of his more well-known novels include *Oliver Twist* (1837), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *David Copperfield* (1850) and *Great Expectations* (1860).

He died in 1870 and is buried at Westminster Abbey, London.



- 1 clerk: office worker doing administrative work
- 2 the Navy: a country's armed forces that fight at sea
- 3 debtors' prison: prison for people who owe money
- 4 bills: money owed
- 5 shoe polish: substance used to make shoes shine

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Great Expectations* is usually described as a *bildungsroman*, a type of novel that was popular in Victorian times.

*Bildungsroman* is a German word used for novels that show the psychological and moral development of the main character as he or she grows up. However, *Great Expectations*, like most of Charles Dickens's novels, cannot be so easily defined. It is also a story about love and passion, a mystery story, and a story that comments on the society of the time.

*Great Expectations* is set on the marshes<sup>1</sup> of Kent and in London in the early to mid-1800s. The main character is a poor orphan<sup>2</sup> boy called Pip, who lives with his older sister and her husband, Joe. One day he meets and falls in love with

a rich girl called Estella. She laughs at him because he is a poor village boy and he starts to become unhappy with his life.

A few years later he learns that he has a secret benefactor<sup>3</sup>, who wants him to live the life of a gentleman. Now that he is rich, he thinks that he has a chance of winning Estella's love. He leaves his village and goes to live in London, where he makes new friends. He starts to feel ashamed<sup>4</sup> of his home and his family, particularly Joe, who he treats unkindly. However, after many adventures he is finally able to recognize his mistakes.

Charles Dickens originally wrote a sad ending for *Great Expectations* but he decided to change it to a happier one because of a suggestion from one of his friends. Most books today contain the new ending but there are some that also include the original one.



- 1 marshes: area of soft, wet land
- 2 orphan: child whose parents have died
- 3 benefactor: someone who helps a person by giving them money
- 4 ashamed: embarrassed; when you think something is not good enough in the eyes of others

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 of the colorful 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 yourself 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 Read Pip's description of where he lived as a child. Tick (✓) the photo that best matches the description.



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 gray, windy, wild place.

- 5 Listen to Pip's description of his first impression of the city of London. Answer the questions.

a What was his general impression of the city?

\_\_\_\_\_

b What were the streets like?


\_\_\_\_\_

c What was the air like?


\_\_\_\_\_

d What covered everything?

\_\_\_\_\_

-  **6** Pip grew up in the country and moved to London when he was a teenager. How do you think his life changed? Is it more fun to grow up in the country or in a big city? Discuss your ideas with a partner.



-  **7** Read a modern definition of the word “expectations.” Discuss the questions that follow it with a partner.

**expectations** [countable] [usually plural]: a belief that something should happen in a particular way, or that someone or something should have particular qualities or behavior

- a** What expectations do you have of your friends?

**Example** I expect my friends to help me when I have a problem.

- b** Think of an important person (or people) in your life who has (have) expectations for you—your parents, teachers, friends, football coach, boyfriend or girlfriend, etc. What are their expectations of you?


**Example** My parents expect me to study hard at school.

-  **8** Discuss the following question with a partner.

- a** What do you think are the “expectations” in the title of the book?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b** Why do you think they are “great”?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c** Which character do you think has “great expectations”?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 1. A meeting in the churchyard

 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<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup> of the marshes. The land there was flat and without much vegetation because it was near the sea. It was a gray, windy, wild place.

<sup>1</sup> sweet-tempered: pleasant, kind and gentle

<sup>2</sup> apron: something you wear to protect the front of your clothes

<sup>3</sup> edge: end; border





I found the grave<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup>—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<sup>3</sup>!"

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<sup>4</sup> and there was a big iron ring on his leg.

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!"

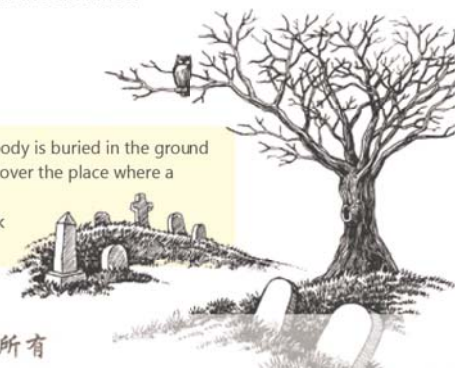
"Pip, sir."

"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.



1 grave: place where a dead body is buried in the ground

2 tombstone: large stone put over the place where a person is buried

3 throat: front part of the neck

4 mud: very soft, wet dirt

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<sup>5</sup> is?"

"Yes, sir."

"And do you know what wittles<sup>6</sup> are?"

"Yes, sir."



5 file: metal tool used for making wood or metal smooth

6 wittles: informal Victorian expression for food



"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<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> was closed when I got back from the churchyard. I opened the kitchen door and went in. Joe was sitting there alone.

1 limped: walked with difficulty because of an injury

2 forge: place where blacksmith works

3 stick: thin piece of wood

4 burst in: suddenly came in

### 1. A meeting in the churchyard



"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<sup>3</sup> with her this time!"

Just at that moment the door opened and Mrs Joe burst in<sup>4</sup>. She looked very angry.

