

# CHARLES DICKENS GREAT EXPECTATIONS

STAGE 2



YOUNG ADULT  READERS

ELT  
A2

## MAIN CHARACTERS



PIP



ESTELLA



JOE GARGERY



MRS  
JOE GARGERY



MISS HAVISHAM



ABEL  
MAGWITCH



MR JAGGERS



ORLICK

## BEFORE YOU READ

### Vocabulary

**1** Solve these anagrams to find seven words we use for reporting speech. Then put them into the sentences in the Past Simple.

- 1** yrc      cry      'Please, Sir. Don't,' she cried,  
but Mr Jagers was determined.
- 2** ksa      a\_\_\_\_\_      'What's that?' I \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3** ysa      s\_\_\_\_\_      'That means another convict has  
escaped,' \_\_\_\_\_ Joe.
- 4** ltle      t\_\_\_\_\_      I didn't know and I \_\_\_\_\_ her so.
- 5** kthni      t\_\_\_\_\_      She \_\_\_\_\_ I was nothing.
- 6** xlpinae      e\_\_\_\_\_      Mr Jagers \_\_\_\_\_ all he knew.
- 7** lprey      r\_\_\_\_\_      'Yes, I know,' he \_\_\_\_\_.

**2a** Put the words in the box into the correct column.

~~wool~~ cloth ~~iron~~ metal silk  
glass cotton linen paper porcelain

Soft Materials	Hard Materials
<i>wool</i>	<i>iron</i>

**2b** What can you make out of these materials? Tell your partner.

# Vocabulary and Speaking

**3a** Adjectives. Match the adjectives from box A with their opposites from box B. Use your dictionary to help you.

A	
1	happy
2	dirty
3	horrible
4	old
5	tall
6	old
7	comfortable
8	wrong
9	beautiful
10	tidy

B	
a	uncomfortable
b	clean
c	right
d	new
e	short
f	untidy
g	ugly
h	nice
i	young
j	sad

**3b** Put adjectives from 3a into the sentences below. More than one answer is possible.

- 1 These shoes don't fit Joe very well. They're very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 'That answer isn't right, it's \_\_\_\_\_,' said Bidy.
- 3 There were things all over the floor - the room was very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 There was an \_\_\_\_\_ smile on his face.
- 5 Bidy is a very \_\_\_\_\_ girl. She's always helping people.
- 6 Orlick bullied Pip. He was \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

**3c** Think about people you know who are *happy*, *tall* or *tidy*. Tell your partner.

# *The Cheese, the Chicken and the Brandy*

▶ 2 My father's family name was Pirrip and my first name was Philip. So Philip Pirrip was my full name. It was very difficult for me to say when I was a child. So, I decided to call myself Pip and everybody called me Pip.

I lived with my sister and her husband, Joe. Everyone called my sister Mrs Joe. We lived in a village by the marshes\* near the River Thames. I don't remember my parents because they died when I was a baby, so I was an orphan\*. I often went to the church and visited their graves\*. I wasn't very happy as a boy. My life with my sister was hard.

One day, I was outside the church when a horrible man jumped out from behind the graves. He was wearing dirty, old grey clothes and had an iron chain\* on his ankles. He took hold of me so I couldn't move. 'Keep still you little devil, or I'll kill you,' he said.

'Please don't hurt me, Sir,' I cried.

'What's your name? Where do you live?'

'Pip, Sir. I live with my sister and Joe the blacksmith\*.'

'Joe the blacksmith, you say. Right. If you want to live, you must bring me some food and a file\*. If you do that, I won't kill you.'

He let me go and I promised to bring the things to him the next day. I ran home, I was very afraid.

**marsh** an area of very wet land

**orphan** a child whose parents are dead

**grave** a place where dead people are put in the ground

**chain** metal rings linked together

**blacksmith** someone who makes things from metal

**file** a tool for working with metal





## AFTER-READING ACTIVITIES

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### Reading Comprehension

#### 1 Match the questions about Chapter Nine with the correct answers.

- 1  Who saves Pip from Orlick?
- 2  Why does Pip go to see Mr Jaggers?
- 3  Who is Estella's mother?
- 4  How does Mr Jaggers feel when he hears about Estella's father?
- 5  Who is planning to leave England?
- 6  Where do the men stay the night?
- 7  Who fights Compeyson?
- 8  After Abel's death, is Pip rich?
- 9  Where does Pip go to work?
- 10  Where does Pip meet Estella again?

- a Abel.
- b In a hotel near the river.
- c No; all Abel's money belongs to the state.
- d Molly.
- e Herbert and Startop.
- f In the garden at Satis House.
- g Pip and Abel.
- h Because he wants to know the truth about Estella's parents.
- i Cairo.
- j He is shocked.



## Writing

### 2 Give your opinion about *Great Expectations*.

I liked/didn't like the story of *Great Expectations* because

## Reading

### 3 Complete this information about *Great Expectations*. Choose the best word – A, B or C for each space.

*Great Expectations* was written (1)\_\_\_\_\_ Charles Dickens. (2)\_\_\_\_\_ was first published in serial form. The (3)\_\_\_\_\_ part of the story came out in December 1860 and the last part in August 1861. It (4)\_\_\_\_\_ the story of an orphan boy called Pip. At the beginning of the story, Pip is very poor. (5)\_\_\_\_\_ the story, he begins to have 'Expectations': the possibility of becoming rich. Pip meets (6)\_\_\_\_\_ different people as he grows up. Some of them are rich, some of them are professionals and some of them (7)\_\_\_\_\_ criminals. Dickens always wrote about his experiences and he knew a lot of people, all from different social classes. Dickens was a very popular writer (8)\_\_\_\_\_ Victorian England.

1 A by

B to

C from

2 A There

B It

C This

3 A prime

B first

C begin

4 A tell

B telling

C tells

5 A During

B Since

C By

6 A many

B much

C lots

7 A is

B are

C was

8 A to

B for

C in

# Charles Dickens

## (1812 – 1870)

Charles Dickens is one of the most important English writers. He wrote a lot of novels, but he also wrote short stories, essays, newspaper articles and travel books. A lot of people say he was the greatest writer of the Victorian Age.

### Early Life

Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Landport, on the south coast of England, on February 7th 1812. He was the second of eight children. His father, John Dickens, was a secretary. Charles' mother's name was Elizabeth. John Dickens wasn't very good with money and Charles' family weren't very rich. But they weren't poor either.

When Charles was four years old, the family moved to Chatham in Kent. Charles was very happy there. His father paid for him to go to a private school. He liked school very much.

In 1822, his father had some problems with money, so the family moved to London. They lived in Camden Town, a poor area of London, and Charles stopped going to school.

### Money Problems

In Victorian times, people often went to prison if they had money problems. Sometimes everyone in the family went to prison too. The prisons were called *debtors' prisons*, because a *debtor* is someone who can't pay their bills. In 1824, John Dickens and his family went to

prison for debt. Charles didn't go to prison with them. He started work in a factory to try and help his family. His life was very hard.

When the family came out of prison, Charles went back to school. He studied until he was fifteen years old, then he started work.

## Work and Family

Charles' first job was in a lawyer's office. Then he worked for a newspaper and as a reporter for parliament. He started writing short stories at the same time. In 1833, a magazine called the *Monthly Magazine* published Charles' first short story, *A Dinner at Poplar Walk*. In 1836, he published his first book *Sketches by Boz*. He used the name Boz as a nickname for many years. In the same year, he married Catherine Hogarth. She was the daughter of a newspaper editor. Together, they had ten children.

## What did Dickens Write about?

Charles never forgot his early days. Especially the time when he was poor. He spent a lot of his later years fighting for rights for the poor. He wrote a lot of articles for newspapers about the problems poor people had. In his books, he also wrote a lot about the problems of poor people. His book, *Oliver Twist*, was quite shocking for the Victorian people. One of his Christmas stories, *A Christmas Carol*, also looks at the problems of the poor. Many of the characters in Charles' stories are like people that he met in his life. *David Copperfield* is almost an autobiography, that is, the story of Charles' own life. *Great Expectations* was one of Charles Dickens' later books. He published it in 1861. It was very popular indeed.



Charles Dickens with his two daughters.

## Final Days

In June 1870, Charles became very ill. He died on June 9th that year. He is buried in Poets' Corner - a part of Westminster Abbey, London. This is a great honour for a writer.

### Task

Complete the form with the information about the author.

Full Name:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Parents' Names:

Wife's Name:

Children:

Four Important Works:

Date of death:

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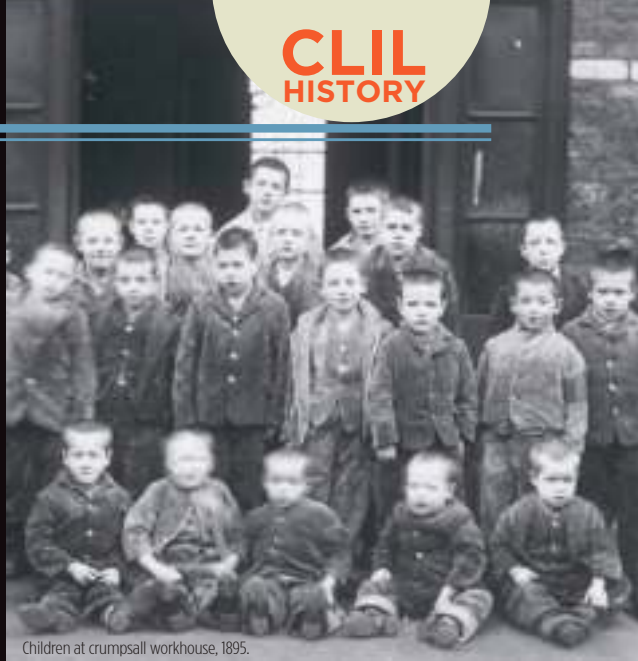
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# Victorian Justice

The Victorian age was the time when Queen Victoria was the Queen of England: from 1837 - 1901. Dickens was writing for much of this time. The justice system was very hard. Young children went to prison, the death penalty still existed and people went to a type of prison because they were poor.



Children at crumpsall workhouse, 1895.

## Transportation

One normal penalty in early Victorian times was transportation to a different country. In the 1830s, it was common to send people to Australia and Tasmania. Before then, convicts were often sent to America. This changed after the American Declaration of Independence. More than 160,000 people were transported to Australia in about eighty years. They were men, women and children, but the majority were men. Of course, the journey to Australia was very long and very hard. Prison ships were always old and in bad condition. Sometimes people stayed on the ships for more than a year. In the 1850s, transportation to Australia finally stopped.

## The Death Penalty

In the early Victorian period, many people were executed (killed by the state). Sometimes, they were executed for theft or other less serious crimes. Until 1868, executions were public. People sometimes went to watch, as a type of entertainment. The usual method of execution was hanging – with a rope around the neck. In late Victorian times, there were changes in the system. People were executed for murder, not for crimes like theft. The death penalty continued in England until very late – 1964.

## Prisons

In Victorian times, prisons were terrible. Charles Dickens often wrote about the conditions at Newgate Prison. This was the largest prison in London. There, people had to cook, wash, live and sleep in a very small area. There were different sections in the prison: a section for men, a section for debtors (people who didn't have enough money to pay their bills) and a section for women and children. Later in the century, the government built many new prisons. Most of them are still used as prisons today.



Workroom at St James Workhouse.

## Workhouses

The Victorians thought it was important for people to work. If people had no work and no money, they had to live (and work) in 'workhouses'. Workhouses were very similar to prisons. Inside these buildings, families were

separated. Men and boys lived in one area and women and girls lived in another. They all wore uniforms. They worked for ten hours a day, but there was no work on Sundays. Small children went to school inside the workhouse.

## Prison Reformers

The fight to change prisons (prison reform) began before Victorian times, with John Howard. He visited prisons in Britain and Europe and wrote about his experiences. He went to Parliament to talk about prison conditions. The writings of Charles Dickens made people think about prison conditions. People began to ask if there were better systems. Elizabeth Fry was one of Britain's most famous prison reformers. When she saw the conditions in the women and children's section of Newgate Prison, she began to invite important people to visit the prison. A lot of the people were very shocked. Elizabeth Fry also wrote a book about prison conditions.



Elizabeth Fry

### Task

**Do some Internet research about the life of Elizabeth Fry or John Howard. Write a paragraph about your subject.**