

A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS

## Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2. Suitable for users of CROWN/TEAM magazines.

### SYNOPSIS

Pip lives with his unkind sister and her kind husband, Joe Gargery beside the Kent marshes, near London. One day when Pip is seven years old a man in a prison uniform with iron around his leg appears. He orders Pip to bring food and a blacksmith's file, and to keep his mouth shut. Pip helps the prisoner. Later, when soldiers recapture the prisoner, Pip still keeps his mouth shut.

The Gargerys are a working class family and Joe is a blacksmith. Pip expects to be a blacksmith too. Then a rich lady called Miss Havisham offers him a strange job – to play with her daughter, Estella, once a week.

Estella is proud and pretty and Pip falls in love with her. Pip's greatest wish is to become a gentleman and marry Estella. But one day, Miss Havisham tells him not to come anymore. Now he has to learn to be a blacksmith after all.

Some years later an unnamed person offers to pay for Pip to become a gentleman. Pip moves to London. He spends freely, and gets into debt. Estella comes to London and Miss Havisham asks Pip to look after her.

Estella marries Bentley Drummle, a rich and cruel gentleman, and Pip's heart is broken. He learns that his benefactor is not Miss Havisham, but the prisoner from the marshes. His name is Abel Magwitch, and he has made his fortune in Australia. If Magwitch is found back in England, he will be hanged. Pip tries to smuggle Magwitch out of the country, but the plan fails and Magwitch is returned to jail, where he dies.

Many years later, Pip and Estella meet again. Will they live happily ever after? The reader decides.

### THE BACK STORY

In a vote to mark 200 years since Charles Dickens was born in 1812, readers from the UK chose *Great Expectations* as their favourite Dickens novel. The story is regularly filmed for television and cinema.

Like Pip in his story, Charles Dickens was born into a poor family. Unlike Pip, Dickens was not given a secret fortune. He made his own fortune, publishing many novels and stories. He wrote epic books about extraordinary characters with very complicated plots. He wrote about crime and social problems, especially in London, as well as love and family, describing people and places in great detail. He died in 1870, a rich and famous writer. For more about Charles Dickens' life, see the Fact File on pages 56-7.

### MEDIA LINKS

**DVD:** The photos in this reader come from Mike Newell's 2012 film adaptation of *Great Expectations*, starring Jeremy Irvine as Pip and Holliday Grainger as Estella. Other stars include Ralph Fiennes as Magwitch, Helena Bonham Carter as Miss Havisham and Robbie Coltrane as Mr Jaggers.

**CD:** An audio recording of *Great Expectations* accompanies the Scholastic Reader.

**Visits:** You can visit Charles Dickens' only surviving London home in Bloomsbury in London ([www.dickensmuseum.com](http://www.dickensmuseum.com)). Dickens also has his own theme park in his hometown of Chatham in Kent ([www.dickensworld.co.uk](http://www.dickensworld.co.uk)).

## HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC READER

### Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have your students heard of *Great Expectations*? Try to generate interest with background information (see The Back Story above) and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

### Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

### Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

### Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. The running time is 128 minutes. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the class reading schedule.

### Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

### Charles Dickens' world

Victorian Britain was very different from today's world. People rode in carriages instead of cars, and communicated by letter rather than phone. Read through the information about life in 1850 on pages 6–7 before students start the story.

### Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. These provide background information about Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* and growing up in Victorian England.

### What did they think?

Get everyone in the class to do a written or spoken review of *Great Expectations*. Compare opinions. Will they read the original in their own language? Did you like it? Let us know at:

[readers@scholasticeltreaders.com](mailto:readers@scholasticeltreaders.com)

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

People and places

Make sentences.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| a) Abel Magwitch             | i) live in a small village next to the Kent marshes.     |
| b) Pip and his family        | ii) live in a big house in a small town.                 |
| c) Estella                   | iii) does not have to worry about money.                 |
| d) Joe                       | iv) has broken the law.                                  |
| e) Miss Havisham and Estella | v) makes things out of metal.                            |
| f) Miss Havisham             | vi) is seven years old, like Pip, when the story starts. |

Chapters 1–2

1 Are these sentences about Pip true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.

- a) His parents had seven children – six boys and a girl.  T
- b) Only he and his sister are still living.
- c) His father is the village blacksmith.
- d) They live in a village next to the marshes.
- e) He has a very happy home life.
- f) His sister often hits him but he isn't frightened of her.

2 Put these events in the correct order.

- a) A prisoner suddenly appears from behind a gravestone.  1
- b) He sees the second prisoner and runs away from him.
- c) He tells Pip to bring him food and a blacksmith's file.
- d) The first prisoner says Pip is a good boy.
- e) Pip says he won't tell anyone about the prisoner.
- f) Pip's prisoner says sorry to Joe for taking his pie and file.
- g) That evening Pip hears guns when a second prisoner escapes.
- h) The next morning Pip takes his sister's pie and Joe's file.
- i) The soldiers go onto the marshes to look for the two prisoners.

3 Pip is frightened by the prisoner on the marshes but not by his sister. What are you frightened by? Talk to a partner.

Chapters 3–4

1 Circle the mistakes in these sentences. Write the correct word(s).

- a) Miss Havisham is wearing a new white wedding dress. old yellow
- b) Estella wants to play cards with Pip.
- c) When Pip cries, Estella is unhappy too.
- d) Miss Havisham didn't plan to get married on her birthday.
- e) Pip starts a fight in Miss Havisham's garden.
- f) Estella doesn't allow Pip to kiss her.

2 Make sentences.

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| a) Miss Havisham's cousins         | i) comes to live with Pip's family.                |
| b) Matthew Pocket                  | ii) looks at Pip with clever eyes.                 |
| c) Mr Jaggers                      | iii) never visits Satis House.                     |
| d) Mr Pumblechook and Pip's sister | iv) only feels comfortable in his working clothes. |
| e) Joe                             | v) sends Estella to France.                        |
| f) Miss Havisham                   | vi) think Miss Havisham has plans for Pip.         |
| g) Bidly                           | vii) want her money.                               |

3 Work with a partner. Imagine you are moving from a country village to a big city like London. Discuss what life will be like in the city.

Chapters 5–6

1 Choose the correct pair of words for each sentence and put them in the correct spaces.

- job, fortune    wait, break    his sister, Joe    walk, dance
- impossible, beautiful    ashamed, good    pleased, jealous

- a) Pip visits ..... Joe ..... because his sister ..... has died.
- b) Pip feels ..... ; Bidly knows that he thinks he is too ..... for Joe.
- c) Pip uses some of his ..... to buy a ..... for Herbert.
- d) Pip and Estella ..... together at parties and ..... in the park.
- e) Estella is ..... when other men are ..... of Pip.
- f) Pip knows he must ..... for Estella to ..... other men's hearts.
- g) Pip believes that Estella is so ..... it is ..... for her to have no feelings.

**RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.**

- a) Pip's London rooms are in a comfortable hotel.  
F. *They are in a dark and dirty building.*
- b) Pip and Herbert have never met before.
- c) Miss Havisham wanted to marry a man called Compeyson.
- d) Bentley Drummle and Pip become good friends.
- e) Pip enjoys Joe's visit to London.
- f) Miss Havisham tells Pip not to see Estella in London.

**3 Work with a partner. You are in Richmond Park. You see Pip and Estella, walking along as a happy young couple. Talk about them.**

**Chapters 7–Epilogue**

**1 Choose the correct words in italics.**

- a) Miss Havisham / *(Magwitch)* has made Pip into a gentleman.
- b) Magwitch has been in *London / Australia* for many years.
- c) *Herbert / Mr Jaggers* says that Pip must help Magwitch.
- d) If the police find Magwitch, they will send him back to *Australia / prison*.
- e) *Compeyson / Magwitch* had all the ideas for ways to take people's money.
- f) Pip asks Miss Havisham to help *him / Herbert*.
- g) Estella is going to marry *Bentley Drummle / Pip*.

**2 Answer these questions.**

- a) What are Herbert and Pip waiting for? *A message from Wemmick.*
- b) Who is Estella's mother? .....
- c) Whose dress catches fire? .....
- d) Who is Estella's father? .....
- e) Who dies underwater? .....
- f) Who dies a happy man? .....

**3 Work with a partner. Student A: You are a reporter. Student B: You were on The Hamburg. You saw Pip's boat, the police and the rescue. Ask and answer questions.**

**FINAL TASKS**

- 1 Pip writes to Miss Havisham a few days after his 21st birthday (Chapter 6). He tells her about his life in London and his hopes for the future. Write his letter.**
- 2 Look at pages 39–40 and 46–7 again. Bentley Drummle loves only himself. Estella says she cannot feel love and she certainly does not love Bentley. Bentley asks Estella to marry him. Act out their conversation in pairs.**
- 3 You are Pip. Choose four important moments from *Great Expectations*. Write four tweets about them.**

**VOCABULARY BUILDER**

Look at the 'New Words' at the back of *Great Expectations*.

**1 Use these words to complete these sentences.**

blacksmith lawyer ~~prisoner~~ soldier

- 1. A ~~prisoner~~ spends most of the day in a very small room.
- 2. A ..... spends most of the day outside.
- 3. A ..... spends most of the day in a hot, small space.
- 4. A ..... spends most of the day in a large room full of people.

**2 Match these adjectives to the definitions.**

ashamed jealous proud

- 1. when you think you have done something very well .....
- 2. when you really want something that someone else has .....
- 3. when you feel very sorry about something you have done .....

**3 Find ...**

- 1. something you can eat. *a pie* .....
- 2. something you can play a game with. ....
- 3. an area of land that is always wet. ....
- 4. something you can have a ride in. ....
- 5. somewhere with a few houses, a shop and a pub. ....
- 6. something that makes your blood move around your body. ....
- 7. things that mean you cannot escape. ....
- 8. something that shows where a dead person lies. ....
- 9. something you can use on your fingernails if they are too long. ....
- 10. something that will change your life. ....
- 11. something you give someone you love. ....
- 12. an event where guests wear their best clothes. ....
- 13. the name of a metal. ....

**CHARLES DICKENS (pages 56–7)****An interview**

Students work in pairs. The year is 1869 and Charles Dickens is 57 years old and a famous writer. One student is a reporter for *The Times* newspaper. The other student is Charles Dickens. Using the information about Dickens' life in the Fact File, the reporter interviews Dickens. He/She can begin like this: *Mr Dickens, you are the most famous writer in Britain. Do you come from a rich family?*

Students write up the interview in question/answer format. Invite some pairs to act out their interview for the class.

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS: The Story of a Novel (pages 58–9)****A completely new ending**

With the class, read about the difficulties Charles Dickens had with the ending of *Great Expectations*. Tell students to imagine that the story ends on page 53 of the reader, at the end of Chapter 9. Students work in pairs or small groups. Give each group a character or pair of characters:

- Pip and Estella
- Estella and Bentley Drummle
- Herbert Pocket and Clara
- Mr Jaggers and Molly
- Mr Pumblechook
- Joe and Biddy.

Each group describes the new ending for their character(s) to the whole class.

**GROWING UP IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND (pages 60–1)****My life**

Read about the different lives of working class and upper class children. Tell students to imagine they are growing up in Victorian England. Ask them to write down answers to these questions about their Victorian selves: *What's your name? How old are you? How big is your family? Are you rich or poor? What is your daily life like?* When students have finished writing, one student tells the class about their life. Example: *My name's Tom. I'm 13. I live in London. There are 13 children in my family. We're very poor. I get up at 5 every morning and I sweep the streets.* That student then asks another student: *Who are you?* and so on around the class. How many students are working class? How many are upper class?

**DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP****DVD: The prisoner on the marshes**

After the class has read Chapters 1 and 2 of *Great Expectations*, show the opening scene on the DVD. Ask: *Is it a good opening scene? Is it frightening? Is the atmosphere good? Is the music right? Say: Imagine you are Pip. How do you feel? What do you do? Do you do what the prisoner asks? Do you tell someone?*

**DVD: Choosing scenes**

The Mike Newell film version of *Great Expectations* is over two hours long. Give students a list of key scenes. They vote for the scenes they would most like to watch. Examples:

- Magwitch frightening Pip in the churchyard
- the fight between Magwitch and Compeyson in the marshes
- Mr Jaggers telling Pip about his 'great expectations'
- Joe visiting Pip in London
- Miss Havisham going up in flames
- the recapture of Magwitch on the Thames

**CD: What's happening?**

Select key moments on the CD from sections students have read. Play a small piece of dialogue. Students describe the context of the extract: who is speaking, where they are, what has just happened, what is going to happen next.

**ANSWER KEY****Self-Study Activities (pages 62–4)**

- 1 a) a blacksmith b) ashamed c) a gravestone d) handcuffs  
e) a village f) a pie g) your teacher
- 2 a) Because his parents are dead. b) Miss Havisham  
c) Abel Magwitch d) Mr Jaggers  
e) At Satis House (with Miss Havisham).
- 3 a) A prisoner (from the prison ship next to the marshes).  
b) To take food and a file to the prisoner.  
c) Two prisoners (from the prison ship).  
d) To play with Estella.  
e) Because she has no parents.  
f) Because he has a working man's hands and thick boots, and he doesn't speak correctly.  
g) A wedding cake. h) Pip; a kiss.
- 4 a) the prisoner b) his sister c) Joe d) Estella  
e) Miss Havisham f) the young gentleman
- 5 Open answers.
- 6 a) fortune b) coach c) jealous
- 7 a) F. He is not welcome there.  
b) F. He wants to be a gentleman.  
c) F. Mr Jaggers tells him.  
d) F. Herbert does not like Estella/Pip is in love with her.  
e) T f) T g) F. She knows that Pip will not visit Joe. h) T  
i) F. He hates the idea of Estella being with Bentley Drummle.
- 8–9 Open answers.
- 10 a) Abel Magwitch b) Miss Havisham c) Compeyson  
d) Because Compeyson was a gentleman with important friends.  
e) She cannot love any man; it is better to marry a man with no feelings.  
f) Molly and Abel Magwitch  
g) On the River Thames; they fight underwater and Compeyson dies.
- 11–12 Open answers.

**Resource Sheet Activities****People and places**

- b) i c) vi d) v e) ii f) iii

**Chapters 1–2**

- 1 b) T c) F. His sister's husband is the blacksmith. d) T  
e) F. His sister is unkind to him. f) T
- 2 The correct order is: a, c, e, g, h, b, d, i, f.
- 3 Open answers.

**Chapters 3–4**

- 1 b) wants > doesn't want c) is unhappy too > smiles  
d) didn't plan > planned e) Pip > A young gentleman  
f) doesn't allow > allows
- 2 b) iii c) ii d) vi e) iv f) v g) i
- 3 Open answers.

**Chapters 5–6**

- 1 b) ashamed, good c) fortune, job d) dance, walk  
e) pleased, jealous f) wait, break g) beautiful, impossible
- 2 b) F. They met in Miss Havisham's garden. c) T  
d) F. Bentley doesn't like Pip.  
e) F. He feels uncomfortable and is pleased when Joe leaves.  
f) F. She wants Pip to look after Estella
- 3 Open answers.

**Chapters 7–Epilogue**

- 1 b) Australia c) Herbert d) prison e) Compeyson f) Herbert  
g) Bentley Drummle
- 2 b) Molly c) Miss Havisham's d) Magwitch e) Compeyson  
f) Magwitch
- 3 Open answers.

**Vocabulary Builder**

- 1 2. soldier 3. blacksmith 4 lawyer
- 2 1. proud 2. jealous 3. ashamed
- 3 2. cards 3. marshes 4. coach 5. village 6. heart 7. handcuffs  
8. gravestone 9. file 10. fortune 11. kiss 12. wedding  
13. iron