Chapter Questions

Chapters 1-8: explicit, ravenously, rampaged, trenchant, virtues, chafe, expectorating, apprehension, consternation, vicariously, oracle, patronage, disdainfully, penitential, contempt, melancholy, insolently

CHAPTERS 1-2
* What is Pip doing when the story opens?

* How does the author hook readers immediately?

* What is Pip afraid will happen if he does not return with the file and food?

* Why do you think Mrs. Joe calls her stick “Tickler”? What does this irony reveal about her?

* From whose point of view is the story told? What is unusual about the way the author has used this point of view?

* Why is Pip living with Joe Gargery? What is their relationship?

* Where are the comical passages in these chapters? Provide 2-3 examples.

* What does the author do at the end of Chapter 2 to keep readers interested?

THIS LANGUAGE IS CRIMINAL! DIALECT IN CHAPTER 1
Translate the convict’s dialect into formal, standard English by rewriting the italicized dialect.

- “Show us where you live,” said the man. “Pint out the place.”
- “Darn me if I couldn’t eat ‘em,” said the man, with a threatening shake of his head, “and if I han’t half a mind to it!”
- “An you know what wittles is?”
- “You fail, or go from my words in any partickler, no matter how small it is”
- “That young man has a secret way pecooliar to himself of getting at a boy and at his heart and at his liver”
- “It is in wain for a boy to attempt to hide himself from that young man”
CHAPTERS 3-4
* Who does Pip meet when he sets out to make his delivery?

* What is surprising about how the first convict acts when he hears about the second one?

* What does Mr. Wopsle say about “the prodigal”? Why did Dickens include this allusion?

* What is ironic about Mrs. Joe not attending church? Why doesn’t she go?

* Who attends dinner at the Gargerys’ house? What is funny about the dinner scene? About the scene when Joe and Pip go to church?

* How does Dickens characterize Mr. Wopsle? Uncle Pumblechook?

* What are Pip’s expectations at this point in the novel?

* How does the author build suspense at the end of Chapter 4?

CHAPTER 5
* How does the suspense of the previous chapter get resolved?

* How does the author characterize the sergeant?

* What accounts for the strange expression on the convict’s face as he looks at Pip?

* What seems to explain the anger existing between the two convicts?

* How does Joe react when the prisoner says he stole the pie? What does this reveal about Joe as a person?

* Why does the narrator refer to the ship as “a wicked Noah’s ark”?

CHAPTERS 6-7
* At the beginning of Chapter 6, why does Pip feel bad?

* Why doesn’t Pip feel ashamed for stealing Mrs. Joe’s food when he does feel guilty for not telling the truth to Joe?
* What does Mr. Pumblechook make of the news that a convict had stolen the food? What does his explanation reveal about him?

* Pip says he was to be apprenticed to Joe. What is an apprenticeship?

* Where does Pip get his education? In what ways does the author satirize public education?

* What do readers learn about Joe’s childhood? Why didn’t he finish school?

* Explain Joe’s play on the two meanings of the word “hammering”.

* What motivates Joe to stay with his wife?

CHAPTER 8
* How does Pumblechook treat Pip before his visit to Satis House? Why?

* Describe Satis House. Though it is a mansion, what other type of building does it seem to resemble?

* What does Pip conclude about why Miss Havisham and the room look as they do?

* How do Pip and Estella interact? What do their interactions reveal about each of them?

* After visiting Satis House, why does Pip feel ashamed?

* What does Pip see hanging by a beam as he leaves?

Chapters 9-15 vocabulary: frantic, felicitous, superciliously, divined, coarse, plaintively, condescend, alluded, scaffold, assented, unscrupulous, disconsolately, surmising, rampage

CHAPTERS 9-10
* Why won't Pip tell the truth about what happened at Satis House?

* What details of the “story” did you find funny?
* Why do Mrs. Joe and Pumblechook believe his tale?

* How does Joe react when Pip tells him the truth? What does this reveal about Joe?

* How have Pip’s expectations changed? What does he expect now?
* Reread the end of Chapter 9. What changes do you expect the visit to make?

* Reread the first two pages of Chapter 10. Why is Pip dissatisfied with Mrs. Wopsle’s school? Identify at least five reasons.

* How do readers know that the bank notes came from the convict?

CHAPTER 11
* Who does Pip meet during his next visit to Satis House? (Identify and describe the characters.)

* What is meant by “toadies and humbugs”?

* Which relative do the others talk about? What do they dislike about him?

* How does Estella treat Pip when he arrives?

* Has her attitude toward him changed when he leaves? How do you know?

* What strange centerpiece does Pip see on the table? How does Miss Havisham explain it?

* Who does Pip meet as he leaves the mansion? What happens with this boy? Why do you think the boy is at Satis House?

CHAPTERS 12 -13
* Why do you think Miss Havisham manipulates and misleads Pip into thinking she is his secret benefactor? What could she get from this behavior?
* What does Pip expect to be the outcome of his fight with the “pale young gentleman”?

* Why does Miss Havisham ask to see Joe?

* Why does Pip feel uncomfortable visiting Satis House with Joe?
* Who does Pip begin to confide in instead of Joe? Why does he do this?

* Who takes most of the credit for Miss Havisham’s gift? Who takes the money?

* What does Pip mean when he says, “I should never like Joe’s trade. I had liked it once, but once was not now”? 
CHAPTERS 14-15
* Why doesn't Pip run away if he is so ashamed of his home and the forge?

* Why does Pip go back to Satis House despite Joe’s advice that he shouldn’t?

* Why does Sarah Pocket treat Pip with such contempt?

* How does Joe get into a fight with Orlick?

* Why did the author make Joe such a “big” man? What might his size symbolize?

* Where is Estella?

* Who is George Barnwell? Why does Pip identify with him?

Chapters 16-23 vocabulary: corroborate, imperceptibly, aberration, latent, imbrued, encumbered, obscurely, virtuous, clemency, audacious, alleviated, solicitor, languor, unreservedly, perplexity, compilation

CHAPTERS 16-17
* Explain why Biddy believes Orlick may have hurt Mrs. Joe. What does this tell you about Biddy?

* How does the author characterize the police?

* In Pip’s mind, how are Biddy and Estella different? Who does he value the most? What does this tell you about Pip?

* Why does Pip tell Biddy about his attraction to Estella?

* Summarize the reasons why Pip does not like Orlick. Does his anger seem justified?

* In what ways does Pip seem immature?

CHAPTER 18
* Summarize the news that Jaggers brings.

* What conditions are set for Pip to realize his new, great expectations?

* Why does Pip believe Miss Havisham sent Jaggers?
* Reread the scene when Miss Havisham offers Joe money. Review Joe’s response to being offered money and the two paragraphs that follow. How are the young Pip and Joe juxtaposed? How does the narrator feel now about the scene? Why have his feelings changed?

* Why does Pip say he is unhappy despite his great fortune? What does he mean by this?

CHAPTER 19

* Pip promises that he will come back to his village and do something for everyone. Do you think he will keep this promise? Why or why not?

* Why does Pumblechook tell Pip that his fortune is “well-deserved”? Give evidence to support the idea that he is insincere.

* Who is Trabb? Pip describes him as a “hail-fellow-well-met.” What does he mean by this? How does Trabb treat Pip? Why?

* What does Miss Havisham say and do that makes Pip more certain that she is the source of his new wealth?

* How does Pip feel about leaving home? What is the tone of the last two pages in the chapter?

* How many of Pip’s earlier expectations have been realized?

* How have Pip’s expectations changed? What does he expect now?

CHAPTERS 20-21

* Why do you think Jaggers believes Pip will not make anything of his new good fortune?

* What kind of lawyer is Jaggers?
* What does Jaggers’s office reveal about him?

* How is Wemmick characterized? What is he compared to? Why?

* What sort of place is Barnard’s Inn?

* Did you expect Pip’s roommate to be the “pale young gentleman”? Why or why not? How well will they get along? What effect does the appearance of the “young gentleman” have on Pip’s belief that Miss Havisham is his benefactor?
CHAPTER 22
* Describe Herbert and Pip’s interactions. How do they relate? What do their interactions reveal about each of them?

* Why does Herbert call Pip by another name?

* What is Herbert’s profession? What does he aspire to do?

* Why is Pip not bothered when Herbert corrects his manners?

* Why did Miss Havisham order Matthew Pocket to leave her house?

* How would you describe the Pockets’ household? How is Mrs. Pocket characterized?

**Chapters 24-31 vocabulary:** discomfiture, cupidity, dolefully, amphibious, dexterously, incongruity, provincial, subsided, lethargic, disparity, enlightenment

**CHAPTERS 23-24**
* Who does the narrator say has the real power in the Pockets’ house?

* Who is Mrs. Coiler? What other characters does she remind readers of?

* How are Pip and Mrs. Pocket alike?

* What is funny about the dinner scene with the children?

* What kind of lessons is Mr. Pocket supposed to give Pip?

* Who are Drummle and Startop? How do their names seem to fit their personalities?
* What is “portable property”?

* What is Wemmick’s view of Jaggers?

* What does Wemmick advise Pip to pay attention to when he eventually goes to dine with Jaggers?

**CHAPTERS 25-26**
* What does Pip share with Herbert besides a place to live?

* How does Wemmick treat the butcher? What happens to Wemmick’s mood and personality as he and Pip walk home?
* How does Walworth reflect Wemmick’s personality?

* How does Jaggers’s home reflect his personality?

* How is Jaggers’s housekeeper characterized?

* What is the effect on readers of Jaggers referring to Drummle as “the spider”?

CHAPTERS 27-28
* Why does Joe call Pip “Sir”?

* What do these chapters show about Pip’s snobbery?

* Explain the confusion behind “what larks”.

* Why does Joe come to London?

* What is Pip embarrassed for Joe to see?

* What news does Joe bring regarding Wopsle? What kind of an actor do you predict Wopsle will make?

* The second to the last paragraph in Chapter 27 is one of the most important in the entire novel. Reread the paragraph. What feelings does it create? Explain Joe’s metaphor, “Life is made of ever so many partings welded together...Divisions amongst such must come, and must be met as such.” Do you agree with his philosophy?

* Why is Pip unable to recognize Joe’s intelligence?

* Mr. Pumblechook is often seen as a comical character. What are some of his dark traits?
  * Why does the narrator say, “All other swindlers on earth are nothing to the self-swindlers”? To what action does this event refer?

* What coincidence happens on Pip’s way back to Kent?

CHAPTER 29
* What role does Pip imagine for himself as he returns to Satis House?

* How has Estella changed?
* Why does Miss Havisham seem to enjoy ridiculing Pip?

* Why does Pip decide not to visit Joe?

* To what extent do you believe Estella when she says no heart, no softness, and no sentiment?

* Explain the apparition, or ghost, that Pip sometimes sees when he looks at Estella.

* Why does Miss Havisham want Pip to love Estella so much?

CHAPTERS 30-31
* What does Pip do to get even with Orlick?

* How did you feel about Trabb’s boy mocking Pip? How justified was this?

* What does Pip do to relieve his guilt about not visiting Joe?

* What does Pip confess to Estella? What is Herbert’s advice about the confession? What advice would you have given Pip?
  * Why do Herbert and Pip go to the theater?

* Describe Wopsle’s performance in Hamlet. Why did he change his name?

**Chapters 32-44 vocabulary:** chronic, thwarted, adjuncts, despondent, temperate, per annum, pacific, sundry, perversion, abhorrence, dubiously, expatriated, perplexed, extricate, feign, delusion, incredulous,

CHAPTERS 32-33
* Why does Pip meet Estella’s coach so early? What does this say about him?

* What is Wemmick’s “green-house”? Why is this an odd metaphor? Why might Wemmick treat the prison this way?

* In Chapter 32, what image is juxtaposed with Newgate?

* Why has Estella come to London?

* Given the way Dickens portrays Estella, what do you think attracts Pip to her?
* Though Estella treats him badly, Pip has hope. In what does his hope lie?

**CHAPTERS 34-35**
* Who are the “Finches of the Grove”? Why does Pip associate with them?

* Describe Pip's spending habits. What do Pip and Herbert do when their spending seems out of control? Explain “leaving a margin.” How helpful is this practice?

* What is the significance of Mrs. Joe’s death? What is surprising about how Pip feels about his sister now? Why doesn’t it bring Joe and Pip closer?

* What is ironic about Pip’s claim that Biddy has done “an injustice” and “an injury” to him?

**CHAPTERS 36-37**
* How did Pip’s life change when he turned 21?

* Why does Pip go to Walworth?

* Why does Wemmick give advice at Walworth that contradicts what he has said on Gerrard Street?

* How is Pip changing? Why does he cry after returning from Walworth?

**CHAPTER 38**
* Reread the descriptions of Miss Havisham. What images does the author invoke to describe her? Why?

* Why is Miss Havisham so pleased with Estella’s behavior? How does her success teaching Estella also cause her great pain?

* What does Pip clearly realize about Miss Havisham?

* What devastating news does Pip get about Estella while visiting Satis House?

* Why does Pip stay devoted to Estella even when he sees how she treats him and her other suitors?

**CHAPTER 39**
* How does the “heavy slab” fall?
* How does the weather mirror Pip’s emotions and foreshadow events?

* What is Pip’s first reaction to his strange visitor?

* What is Pip’s horrible realization?

* Why has the man returned to England?

* How does Pip feel about the visitor at the end of the chapter?

* How have Pip’s expectations changed? What does he expect now?

* How does the author build suspense for the third part of the novel?

CHAPTER 40
* How does Abel Magwitch resemble Joe? Identify at least four characteristics they share.

* Why does Magwitch say he will get pleasure watching Pip spend money?

* What did Magwitch say that he characterizes as “low”? What does this characterization reveal about him?

* Why does Pip find it so difficult to disguise Magwitch?
* Why does Magwitch insist that Herbert swear on a Bible? What does this reveal about Magwitch?

CHAPTERS 41-42
* Why might it be important to Magwitch that Pip “always bear the name of Pip”?

* Why does Pip feel he cannot receive any more money from Magwitch? Is this an admirable trait of Pip’s?

* What advice does Herbert offer about Magwitch? Why does he say Pip should wait to tell Magwitch that he cannot accept his money?

* Who is Compeyson? Identify two coincidences involving him. Why does Magwitch hate him?

* How does Magwitch’s life story affect what you think of him? What effect does it have on Pip?
CHAPTERS 43-44
* What danger do Herbert and Pip realize Magwitch is in?

* What effect does Magwitch's appearance have on Pip's feelings for Estella?

* Why does he go to Satis House?

* Who does he see at the Blue Boar? Who does he think he sees?

* How does Miss Havisham explain why she did not correct Pip's belief that Estella was intended for him?

* Do you think it is true that Estella never deceived Pip? Why or why not?

* How do Pip's conversations at Satis House reveal that he is changing? What, if anything, does he say that takes courage or shows virtue?

* How is Pip feeling as he leaves Satis House? How do you know?

CHAPTERS 45-58 vocabulary: truculent, averse, inexplicable, tremulous, disquiet, vivacity, obdurate, irresolute, tumult, querulous, indelible, diffidence, teemed, assiduity, avarice, relinquished, interposed

CHAPTERS 45-46
* What is the mood at the Hummums? Why does he stay there?

* Based on the information Pip receives from Wemmick, what adjectives would you use to describe Wemmick? Why?

* Describe life at Clara's house.

* What information does Pip give Magwitch? Why does he withhold information about Compeyson? What does this reveal about Pip?

* How does the pair plan to get Magwitch on a ship leaving England?

CHAPTERS 47-48
* What does Pip describe as his primary concern, a "high mountain above a range of mountains"? Why does this concern cause him such anxiety?

* Why does Pip return Magwitch's unopened pocket book?
* What does Wopsle tell Pip that intensifies his fears for Magwitch?

* What kind of husband does Jaggers suggest Drummle will be to Estella?

* What happened at Hounslow Heath?

* How did Jaggers know Molly? Why did he refer to her strong hands when Pip met her (in Chapter 26)? What does Pip deduce about her?

CHAPTERS 49-50
* What does Miss Havisham want in exchange for helping Herbert?

* Do you believe Pip when he says that he forgives Miss Havisham? Why or why not?

* Do you believe Miss Havisham when she tells Pip that in raising Estella she “meant to save her from misery like (her) own”? Why or why not?

* Explain what Pip means by “the vanity of sorrow...the vanity of unworthiness...the vanity of penitence”. How could these traits be considered vanities?

* Why did Miss Havisham’s dress catch fire? Does Dickens want readers to believe this was an accident?

* How does Pip show real courage and character in Chapter 50?
* What does Pip deduce about Magwitch?

CHAPTERS 51-52
* Why does Pip go to Little Britain?

* How does Pip persuade Jaggers to give him more information about Estella when he first refuses?

* Why does Jaggers refer to Wemmick as the “most cunning impostor in all of London”?

* Besides Wemmick’s home life, what else did Jaggers not know?

* Why does Jaggers pose his information in the form of a hypothetical situation?

* What news does Pip get about Herbert when he goes to Clarriker’s?
* How does Startop get involved in the plan to save Magwitch? Do you think this is a good idea?

* Why does Pip leave Monday night? Why does he decide to go in spite of the risk? Why must he hurry and return to London?

CHAPTER 53

* What is the mood as Pip sets out for the sluice house? How does this foreshadow the action in the chapter? Why does Pip feel he is doomed?
* What is the effect of his candle going out? What does the candle symbolize?

* How is Orlick characterized? What motivates him to want to kill Pip?

* What event from Chapter 43 gives us a clue that Orlick may have been the one waiting in the sluice house?

CHAPTER 54

* Why does Magwitch say Pip cannot appreciate freedom the way he does? How accurate is his theory?

* Explain Magwitch’s belief that life is a river. Is the metaphor appropriate?

* The narrator says of Magwitch, “One would have supposed that it was I who was in danger, not he, and that he was reassuring me”. Why does Magwitch seem increasingly calm and submissive, even under such dire circumstances?

* What causes Pip’s fear when they stop for the night? How do readers learn that his fears are justified?

* What has happened to Compeyson? Do you think Magwitch killed him?

* Why is Pip finally able to accept and love Magwitch? What has caused this change in Pip?

CHAPTERS 55 - 56

* Does Dickens think that all criminals are bad? How do you know?

* How does Dickens gain sympathy for the people who are on trial?
* What does the author do to keep the chapters from being too dark and tragic?

* What is the significance of Magwitch’s death? Why did Dickens have him die, but not hanged, as he was sentenced?
* How does Pip repay Magwitch before he dies?

* How do you think the book will end? What will Pip do now?

CHAPTER 57
* Why is Pip in so much debt?

* Why were the police unable to take him to Newgate?

* In Chapter 27 Joe says he will not return to London, but he does in Chapter 57. Why?

* Why was Biddy able to teach Joe to read when Pip had failed?

* What does Pip plan to do after Joe leaves? What are his newly revised expectations?

CHAPTERS 58-59
* Reread Pip’s speech to Biddy and Joe. What does he say? Why is his speech significant?

* What advice does Biddy give to Pip after his return 11 years later?

* During this 11-year period, what happened to Estella? What does Pip notice about her when he meets her at the site of Satis House?

* How have Pip’s expectations changed? What does he expect now?
* What do you think will happen to Pip during the next twenty years?

* Which ending of the story do you find the most believable? The most satisfying? Why?