



The Islamia University of Bahawalpur  
Rahim Yar Khan Campus  
English Department

**Course: Eng. 21105 Classical Novel**

**Course Instructor: Prof Ather Faridi**

**Class: M.A. (1st Semester)**

### Course outline:

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Henry Fielding  | Tom Jones           |
| 2. Jane Austin     | Pride and prejudice |
| 3. Charles Dickens | Great Expectations  |

### Contents:

1. Symbolism
2. Charles Dickens as a novelist
3. Pips character in Great Expectations
4. Realism
5. Critical Summary of Great Expectations

## 6. Morality in Great expectations

### “Symbolism in Great Expectations”

In life, symbolism is present all around us. Whether it is in the clothes we wear, the things we do, or what we buy, everything has a meaning. Symbolism is also present in literature and it is shown in Charles Dickens Great Expectations. The symbols of isolation, manipulation, the tragic hero, and wanting to be someone else are seen throughout the book through the characters of Estella, Magwitch, Miss Havisham, and Pip. Protagonist

**Character:** The one character who shows the symbol of how people always want to be someone else but then decide they are better off with whom they are is Pip, the story's protagonist. As a boy, pip wishes to be a gentleman. With unknown help from Magwitch the convict, Pip's dreams come true. After attaining his fortune and his expectations, Pip is miserable. "As I had grown accustomed to my expectations, I had insensibly begun to notice their effect upon myself and those around me." [305]. He noticed the negative effects as he was in debt because of his lavish spending and he also realized how much he neglected Joe and Biddy, his two best friends as a kid. In the end, Pip changes as he becomes a loyal friend to Magwitch in his time of need, tries to repair his relationship with Joe and Biddy, and goes from almost total destruction to moderate business success. He also shows how people gain from giving. The only good fortune from the money he received from his private benefactor, Magwitch, was giving it to Herbert. "A body makes his own luck Bait good or bad" Magwitch

**Character:**

The character of Magwitch represents the symbols of isolation and the tragic hero. In this case, he was physically isolated from society because he was a convict and was looked upon with disgust. When Magwitch confesses and apologizes to Joe for stealing the food, Joe replies "poor

miserable fellow creator.” Magwitch also illustrates the symbol of the tragic hero. Throughout most of the book, Magwitch is looked down upon by Pip. Magwitch talks about his gratitude for Pip when he helped him as a convict many years ago. He shows why he is a hero when he explains to Pip that he was the benefactor and the one responsible for making him a gentleman and helping him achieve his great expectations. “Yes, Pip, dear boy, I’ve made a gentleman on you! It’s me woot done it.” After his death, however, Pip feels guilt and sadness when he learns what Magwitch spent most of his life trying to do. As a result, he shows the why he was the tragic hero.

### ***Miss Havisham:***

One character who represents the symbols of isolation and manipulation is Miss Havisham. For most of her life, she has refused to let go of her past as she continues to wear her wedding dress and keep her wedding cake. Her decaying dress and cake are symbols of how her life rotted away. It also depicted the state of the Satis House, where she was isolated from the rest of society. The house is used as a metaphor to show how they decayed and crumbled as time passed on. Miss Havisham also illustrates the symbol of manipulation. She had raised Estella as a heartless stepdaughter whose main purpose was to seek revenge on men. This central motivation of revenge resulted from the fact that she was a rejected lover. Her plan is shown when she tells Estella to go play with Pip.

### ***Estella:***

The character of Estella represents the symbols of isolation and manipulation. By acting as an adult when she was still young, she separated herself from Pip and others. This was due in large part to the way Miss Havisham, her stepmother, raised her. She had no emotion, as Miss Havisham used her for revenge on men.

### ***Money:***

Money, for Dickens has a dual meaning. Money represents the value that society places on someone. The author also uses money to represent power or control over people. Money also has a great impact on Pip’s childhood.

Pip has many expectations, but I think the main expectation in Dickens' novel, and the one to which the title refers, is that Miss Havisham is going to do something wonderful for him. When he learns about his great expectations from Mr. Jagger, Pip naturally assumes that it is Miss Havisham who is his benefactor. He guesses that she wants to turn him into a gentleman, then have him marry Estella, and finally leave him all her money, so that he can enjoy a life of ease and luxury with a beautiful wife. In the process of becoming a "gentleman" he experiences some disillusionments, but there are incidental to the main expectation that he is going to be married to Estella and inherit a fortune. Neither Miss Havisham nor her lawyer Mr. Jagger say anything to discourage him. Jagger's has to keep silent for professional reasons. Miss Havisham's motives are harder to understand. She knows what Pip expects of her and doesn't tell him the truth. But he is in for a terrible shock when Magwitch, his real benefactor, shows up on a cold, rainy night. Dickens must have planned that scene from the time he began writing the novel. Pip's whole life and perspective are changed by the fact that his social status was dependent on one person rather than others.

## **Conclusion:**

As shown from the examples above, symbolism plays an important part in Charles Dickens Great Expectations. Many symbols such as isolation, manipulation, the tragic hero, and wanting to be someone else are present throughout the novel and are brought to life by the characters. People in today's society must realize that a lot of what we do symbolizes something about us and helps explain who we are as people.

## Charles Dickens as a Novelist

Charles Dickens who was born in 1812 was an English novelist, Writer novelist and Critic. He was the representative of Victorian Era. He created some of the World best fiction characters. His work gained popularity during his life time. His novels and short stories are still widely read today.

His notable work are included;

- The Pickwick paper.
- Bleak House.
- A Tale of two cities.
- Great Expectations.

Dickens literary Success began with the 1836 serial publication of "The Pickwick Papers". Within few years he becomes an international literary celebrity, famous for his famous satire and keen observation of character and society.

In his work Dickens largely reflected the political economic and social aspects of the society comprising the poor parents, workers, Land lords the rich and the state. Charles Dickens is the representative of his age. He represents the tendencies, manners views and virtues of his age. He is considered to be the greatest creative genius of English.

Dickens is the pioneer of realism. His keen observations made him a realist of high order. As a realist he created his eyes on London and Law life. He was the first genuine story tells about the London life.

It is said that;

*"The secret of happiness is to face the fact of the world is horrible, horrible, horrible."*

Dickens deals with the characters not with the character. It is said that his Characters are not individual but types. His character do not at all. They only behave and show off their unlikeness. In short Dickens characterization in his notable contribution to the English novel.

Dickens is the one of the greatest humorist. Humor is the soul of his writings. His humor is broad, Humane, creative and face. His novel are remembered not for the plot but for the characters.

## Conclusion:

Dickens is the most original novelist of England. He is the one of Master of prose. He is representative of his age and famous for his humor, Satire, realism, characterization and keen observation.

## “ Pip’s character in Great Expectation”

Pip, is the protagonist and narrator in Charles Dickens novel Great Expectation (1861). He is amongst the most popular characters English Literature. Pip narrates his story many years after the events of the novel take place. The novel follows Pip's process childhood to adulthood. The financial and social rise of the protagonist is accompanied by an emotional and moral deterioration, which forces Pip to recognize his negative expectations in a new self-awareness.

Pip has no recollection of either of his parents; he is more than twenty years younger than his sister. Five brothers died in infancy between them: Alexander, Bartholomew, Abraham, Tobias and Roger. The opening scene of the novel shows Pip in a graveyard paying his respects to the graves of his parents and brothers. He says he is small for his age when he encounters the convicts at age seven, but when he is apprenticed to Joe, he is taller and becomes very strong to master the work of a blacksmith. He is known to himself and to the world as Pip, because his "infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip.

Good things come when you least expect them

He is destined for, and wants, a career as a blacksmith like his brother-in-law, until an unexpected chain of events thrusts him into a different social class. Pip goes through many changes in his personality as he is influenced by various characters. As an innocent young boy who does not mind his

low rank in society. At around the age of eight, he meets a beautiful but proud girl named Estella who is of upper Class , Pip falls in love with her and becomes very ashamed of his humble background and his coarse-seeming relatives. When he is old enough he is bound apprentice to Joe. But he longs to be a gentleman, in a social class inaccessible to a village blacksmith. He suffers guilt for his ungrateful feelings toward Joe, who is a kind friend to him throughout his life.

When, four years into his apprenticeship, a mysterious benefactor enables him to escape the working class, Pip moves London a teenager to become a gentleman. In his youth, he believes that his patron is Estella's Miss Havisham who wants to make him a suitable contender for her ward's hand. Once he moves to London, though his benefactor is not named, Pip persists in

Believing that Miss Havisham means him to marry Estella. He is not wise in spending the money he gets before he comes of age at 21, running up debts. His legal guardian is Mr. Jaggers, a lawyer, who points out the difficulties Pip creates, but leaves it to Pip to guide his own life. He does not entirely lose his good character, which is expressed mainly in his relationship with his friend Herbert Pocket.

Two years after Pip comes of age his benefactor appears in person, and it is Abel Magwitch, the convict he met as a boy. This deflates his hope that he is meant for Estella and at first disgusts him. He knows nothing about what sort of criminal the man is. Despite his disgust and disappointment, the sense of duty that compels Pip to help the convict is a mark of his inner goodness, just as it was when Pip first met him at age seven. After Abel Magwitch dies and the Crown confiscates his fortune, Pip, aged 23 understands that good clothes, genteel speech and a generous allowance do not make one a gentleman. At one point he was on the verge of being sent to debtor's prison but the law granted him a reprieve due to succumbing to an illness. Joe learns of this and comes to London to look after Pip until Pip is able to walk on his own. While recuperating, he finds a receipt stating that his outstanding debt was amortized by Joe and Biddy. A few days after Joe leaves, Pip goes home to find that Biddy has married Joe that very day (Pip's sister having died from being hurt in a burglary, then succumbing to her injuries years later). Without income or training for



any profession, he is at loose ends. Herbert Pocket suggests Pip join the firm where he works, in an office in Cairo. Pip starts as a clerk. Herbert marries his fiancée Clara Pocket, and Pip lives with them. There is irony in this, as Pip used his gift at age 21 of 500 pounds to engage Herbert with the new firm, despite the fact he was being dogged by creditors. Working for a merchant named Clarriker, Pip finally learns discipline and financial responsibility, and is now more careful.

Eleven years later, Pip returns to England to see Joe, Biddy and their children, a daughter and a son named after him, or a "little Pip". He walks to the land where Sati's House once stood and meets Estella there. Both have changed much from their experience of life. After they reconcile, they hold hands, and Pip sees no shadow to part them again

### Theme

A central theme here is of people living as social outcasts. The novel opening setting emphasizes this: the orphaned Pip lives in an isolated foggy environment next to a graveyard, dangerous swamps, Prison ship Furthermore, "I was always treated as if I had insisted on being born in opposition to the dictates of reason, religion and morality".

When the money secretly provided by Magwitch enables Pip to enter London society, two new related themes, wealth and gentility, are introduced.