

English IV Summer Reading (Upcoming Seniors)

Summer Reading Project: *Great Expectations* ISBN-13: 978-1-59308-006-8

Summary of the Book

Pip, an orphan raised by a sister and her husband, decides he wants a name and money. He has “great expectations.” This dream arises as a result of a wealthy woman’s condescension of him. Out of her bitterness, she hires Pip to visit her mansion to entertain her a few hours a week. During this time, he meets people who seem to have everything he lacks. One of these people is Estella, a young girl embittered towards men by Miss Havisham.

If you’re puzzled, here’s why...

As you read, know that each chapter has a “cliff hanger” to cause you to want to read the next chapter. As a Victorian piece of literature, the novel had not been developed. To sell the literature, the author sold each chapter to a magazine to be published weekly – almost like the old comic books. If you find yourself puzzled about what happens at the end of a chapter, know that Dickens caused that in an attempt to lure you to buy the next week’s publication. However, you have all of the “installments” published in the one book – the novel.

Marks, symbols, etc.: Develop and use your own symbols for marking. Here are a few examples, but invent your own system so that you will develop a habit.

- * important point
- ! wow
- ? unclear; why did this happen
- + I agree; author has a good point
- I disagree; author is weak
- 1, 2, 3 first, second, third, etc.

Annotations: Write annotations in the margin about these important items.

- Circle the name of each character when you first meet him/her and underline descriptions of him/her.
- The narrative facts: Identify important facts such as who, what, where, when, why, etc. Use only one or two words for tagging these facts.
- Your personal comments: In the margin, write any important thoughts, insights, reactions, or emotions you have while reading. (I.e. “valuable insight,” “lame excuse,” “misuse of scripture by slave owner”)
- Questions: In the margin, pose questions. (I.e. “Why didn’t she fight back?”)