

Great Expectations Study Guide Questions – Chapters 11-19

Chapter 11

1. Identify and describe the people that Pip meets during his next visit to Satis House.
2. Which relative do the others talk about? What do they dislike about him?
3. How does Estella treat Pip when he arrives?
4. Has her attitude toward him changed when he leaves? How do you know?
5. What strange centerpiece does Pip see on the table? How does Miss Havisham explain it?
6. 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

7. Why does Pip think Miss Havisham is going bestow her wealth on Pip? Why do you think Miss Havisham manipulates Pip into thinking she is going to give him money, yet never does? What could she get from this behavior?
8. What does Pip expect to be the outcome of his fight with the “pale young gentleman”?
9. Why does Miss Havisham ask to see Joe?
10. Why does Pip feel uncomfortable visiting Satis House with Joe?
11. Who does Pip begin to confide in instead of Joe? Why does he do this?
12. Who takes the most of the credit for Miss Havisham’s gift? Who takes the money?
13. 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

14. Why doesn't Pip run away if he is so ashamed of his home and the forge?
15. Why does Pip go back to Satis House despite Joe's advice that he shouldn't?
16. Why does Sarah Pocket treat Pip with such contempt?
17. How does Joe get into a fight with Orlick?
18. Why did the author make Joe such a "big" man? What might his size symbolize?
19. Where is Estella at this point?

Chapters 16-17

20. Explain why Biddy believes Orlick may have hurt Mrs. Joe. What does this tell you about Biddy?
21. How does the author characterize the police?
22. In Pip's mind, how are Biddy and Estella different? Who does he value the most? What does this tell you about Pip?
23. Why does Pip tell Biddy about his attraction to Estella?
24. Summarize the reasons why Pip does not like Orlick. Does his anger seem justified?
25. In what way does Pip seem immature?

Chapter 18

26. Summarize the news that Jaggers brings.
27. What conditions are set for Pip to realize his new, great expectations?
28. Why does Pip believe Miss Havisham sent Jaggers?
29. Why does Pip say he is unhappy despite his great fortune? What does he mean by this?

Chapter 19

30. 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?
31. Why does Pumblechook tell Pip that his fortune is “well-deserved”? Give evidence to support the idea that he is insincere.
32. Who is Trabb? Pip describes him as a “hail-fellow-well-met.” What does he mean by this? How does Trabb treat Pip? Why?
33. What does Miss Havisham say and do that makes Pip more certain that she is the source of his new wealth?
34. How does Pip feel about leaving home? What is the tone of the last two pages in the chapter?
35. How many of Pip’s earlier expectations have been realized?
36. How have Pip’s expectations changed? What does he expect now?

Other Thought-Provoking Questions

37. Describe how Biddy is a contrasting figure to Estella.
38. Reread the section in Chapter 18, and 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?
39. Describe the competing feelings that Pip experiences once he is to inherit his fortune. How is this connected to Pip’s ideas about “self-improvement”? In what ways does Pip try to improve his lot in life? Is this realistic?