

## **Great Expectations Review Questions – Chapters 49-59**

### **Chapters 49-50**

1. What does Miss Havisham want in exchange for helping Herbert? What is Pip's reaction to this?
2. Explain why Miss Havisham raised Estella the way she did. Do you believe this?
3. Why did Miss Havisham's dress catch fire? Was this an accident? What role does Pip play in this incident, and what does it tell us about him?
4. What does Pip realize about Magwitch in Chapter 50?

### **Chapters 51-52**

5. How does Pip persuade Jaggers to give him more information about Estella when he first refuses?
6. What has changed in Wemmick's and Jaggers' relationship?
7. What does the letter to Pip say, and what are his thoughts about this? Why does he feel doomed?

### **Chapter 53**

8. What is the effect of the candle going out? What does the candle symbolize?
9. How is Orlick characterized? What motivates him to kill Pip?
10. Describe what happens at the sluice house with Orlick.

### **Chapter 54**

11. Describe Magwitch's beliefs and thoughts about freedom and life. Is the metaphor about life as a river appropriate?
12. Why does Magwitch seem increasingly calm and submissive, even under such dire circumstances?
13. What has happened to Compeyson?
14. Why is Pip finally able to accept and love Magwitch? What has caused this change in Pip?

**Chapters 55-56**

15. Does Dickens think that all criminals are bad? How do you know?
16. How does Dickens gain sympathy for the people who are on trial?
17. What is the significance of Magwitch's death? Why did Dickens have him die, but not hanged, as he was sentenced?
18. How does Pip repay Magwitch before he dies?

**Chapter 57**

19. Why is Pip in so much debt?
20. Why has Joe returned to London?
21. Why was Biddy able to teach Joe to read when Pip had failed?
22. What does Pip plan to do after Joe leaves? What are his newly revised expectations?

**Chapters 58-59**

23. Describe Pip's reactions to learning about Joe and Biddy. How has he changed from the Pip we saw earlier?
24. What advice does Biddy give Pip when he returns 11 years later?
25. During the 11 years away, what has happened with Estella? Do Pip and Estella stay together or not? Why does Dickens end the story this way? Is it satisfying?

**General Thoughts and Questions**

26. How have Pip's expectations (and Pip) changed over the course of his life?
27. What message about life or human nature do you see in this novel?