

**Great Expectations.**

*The main character of “Great Expectations”(by Charles Dickens) is introduced in the very first paragraph:*

My father’s family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer than or more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip.

*Pip lives in flat countryside not far from the sea. The area is very marshy (the land is wet and muddy). The story opens in a churchyard, on a cold, grey late afternoon. Pip is at the graves of his father and mother (‘Also Georgina Wife of the Above’) and five brothers. He lives with his sister, who is 20 years older than him, and who is married to the village blacksmith. In the churchyard, Pip is cold and wet, and starting to cry.*

*He meets another character from “Great Expectations”, Magwitch, there.*

**Exercise A**

Read the passage from chapter 1 of Great Expectations. In 2 places marked [\*] some words have been cut. You have 5 minutes to answer these question:

**How do Pip and Magwitch feel during their meeting?**

**What do you think Pip replies at the end?**

**Exercise B**

Magwitch's words are written as they sound. For example, 'wittles' and 'wain' for 'victuals' and 'vain'. This shows us he cannot say the letter 'v' correctly. Some other words are mispronounced or shortened. What is the correct, full version of the following?

pint (line 12)	ha' got (17)	'em (19 & 42)	han't (19)
to't (20)	lookee (23 & 36)	alonger (27)	d'ye (29)
sumever (50)	partickler (51)	ain't (52)	pecooliar (54)

Why do you think Charles Dickens writes Magwitch's speech in this way? Is it to create a special effect? Is it to give us an idea about Magwitch? Is this successful, or does it just make it harder to read?

**Exercise C**

There is a lot of feeling in this meeting, and both characters are frightened. But it is also funny. In pairs practice acting the dialogue out. First, you must decide do you want to make it more frightening, or funnier, or to find a balance? You will have to use your voice to get the emotions across, as well as acting. When you are ready, the teacher will ask some of you to perform in front of the class.