

Chapter XLIX

1. How does Dickens create reader sympathy for Miss Havisham?
2. What is the significance of the fire that destroys Miss Havisham's wedding dress?
3. What is significant about the fact that Pip is also burned in the fire?
4. What effect does Dickens achieve in his narration of the fire?
5. To what "childish association" is Pip referring when he decides to return to Miss Havisham's room? (Pg. 314)

Chapter L

1. How is Estella's history further hinted at in this chapter?
2. At what inevitable conclusion does Pip arrive?

Chapter LI

1. What is Dickens's purpose in revealing Estella's parentage?
2. What purpose does Dickens achieve in Jaggers's hypothetical description of the children with whom he typically came into contact?

Chapter LII

1. What does the completion of the purchase of Herbert's partnership forebode?
2. For what purpose does Dickens have the innkeeper tell Pip the story of Pumblechook and the ungrateful boy?

Chapter LIII

1. Explain Dickens's use of light and dark in this chapter.
2. What is Pip's main concern about what Orlick has threatened?
3. What is significant about the fact that he calls Magwitch "Estella's father"? (Pg. 333)
4. List three mysteries Orlick solves for Pip while he is working up the courage to kill him.
5. What is significant about the fact that Pip resolves to fight Orlick as much as he is able and to ask no mercy?
6. What happens to suggest that Pip is not finished with Orlick and Compeyson?
7. How has the imagery toward the end of the chapter established a mood of optimism?

Chapter LIV

1. Briefly describe Pip's plan to get Magwitch out of England.
2. What aspect of Magwitch's character is reinforced by his attitude on the boat?
3. How does the change in imagery on page 344 reflect a change in mood?
4. How does Pip's narration of Magwitch's arrest echo his narration of the fire at Miss Havisham's?
5. What evidence is there to suggest that Magwitch is telling the truth when he says he did not kill Compeyson?
6. What is ironic about the confiscation of Magwitch's purse?

Chapter LV

1. What is ironic about Herbert's offering Pip the position of clerk in his eastern office?
2. Why does Dickens pause in the narrative to tell about Herbert's impending marriage and to show Wemmick's wedding?

Chapter LVI

1. What theme is being emphasized when Pip says, "I sometimes derived an impression, from his manner or from a whispered word or two which escaped him, that he pondered over the question whether he might have been a better man under better circumstances"? (Pg. 357)
2. How does Magwitch's death reinforce this theme?
3. Why does Pip tell Magwitch about Estella?

Chapter LVII

1. What purpose does Dickens achieve by having Joe nurse Pip through his illness and convalescence?
2. How does this chapter contribute to the study of what a gentleman is?
3. Why does Joe begin to call Pip "sir" when Pip begins to regain his strength?

Chapter LVIII

1. What is the function of this chapter?

Chapter LIX

1. What does Dickens achieve by having Pip take his namesake to the churchyard?
2. Compare the ending passage of the book with the ending passage of Chapter XIX.
3. Explain the ambiguity of the ending of the novel.