

Great expectations class notes

Sociology



Great Expectations — Class Notes Chapter 1-5 Major characters: Pip, Graveyard digger man, Mr and Mrs Gargery, Uncle P, Mr W Plot: Prisoner told Pip to get food, Christmas time Themes: Honesty, family, fear Social Class: Working class Children seen not heard Married couples don't love each other (arranged marriages) Relationships: Joe is close to Pip Chapter 5-7ish Pip's parents are dead Pip's sister is raising Pip Pip's sister is mean Themes: how do men know who they are? Lower middle class family Chapter 15-20 Major Characters: Miss Havish, Estella Plot: Pip's transition from a small boy to an adolescent, Pip grows apart from his family, ashamed about Joe Social class: Aspire to gain status Themes: ambitions and expectations Relationships: all have expectations (love, look after Pip) Chapter 35+ Major Characters: Pip, Estella, Miss Havish, Herbert, Mr Jaggers, Wemmick, Joe, Biddy Plot: Pip developing a conscience, has great expectations, in love with Estella, thinks Miss Havish is his benefactor* Parenting: violence was okay, children seen as little adults Social Class: Children had no status, people didn't have to raise their own children (Mary Poppins Style) Themes: Social Stratification (mobility from class to class) < not easy, Pretentiousness (they think their culture is better) Estella is really snobbish to Pip but she's adopted too, you have to be better than someone Uncle is trying to make out he is better than them Social classes are important! Question 1: 1. The cultural discourse of the novel "Great Expectations" means that modern readers cannot relate to the key themes as Dickens intended when the novel was written. Discuss. 2. Issues such as child raising and parenting are shown in a particular light within the novel "Great Expectations." Is the representation still valid to a contemporary audience?