

Great expectations by charles dickens: thesis statement

[People](#), [Charles Dickens](#)



Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, the tale of an orphan coming of age and falling into his role as a gentlemen, has many different layers of commentary regarding class distinctions in Victorian England. The characters of this book all strive to either gain or keep their largesse, no matter what it takes to achieve it. As a result, these characters constantly sacrifice parts of themselves and their personalities to become cold and lifeless, but rich.

Dickens meant to show the audience a tale of love mixed with political and economic intrigue, as the relationship and conflict between rich and poor is made clear through both Pip and Estella's star-crossed love.

Great Expectations shows the audience, through the stories of the various main characters, the pitfalls and emotional damage that upper-class society causes people. Miss Havisham, because of her heart breaking at her fiancée jilting her at the altar, maintains a fantasy world where she is still rich and still kept, and dares not allow anyone else to have happiness. Meanwhile, Pip, as well as Herbert Pocket, both go from rags to riches as Pip's mysterious benefactor seeks to teach him the ways of the upper class.

However, their own lower-class tendencies, and naivete about the way the world of the rich works, leads them to considerable trouble. Estella, ruined for love by Miss Havisham, demonstrates the fundamental unhappiness that occurs as a result of being a kept woman. The Convict, Pip's real benefactor, allows him to be rich, but his history as a criminal forbids him from being rich on his own, despite having earned that money legitimately.

Works Cited

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. Chapman & Hall, 1861. Print.