

# Intertextuality and the context of reception: *Great Expectations* - chapter 3 by Charles Dickens

## Lesson plan

### Resources

- ❖ Spare socks
- ❖ Copies of *Great Expectations* texts
- ❖ **Resource A** – Bible passages
- ❖ **Resource B** – Film clip of *Great Expectations* chapter 3
- ❖ **Resource C** – Extract from *Great Expectations* chapter 3
- ❖ Highlighters

### Learning objectives

- ❖ To consider Pip's relationship with the convict
- ❖ To apply a biblical interpretation and use this to make predictions about the novel

### Starter activity – recapping the story so far

- ❖ In pairs, students quickly recap the events of chapters 1-3 (Pip is sitting in the graveyard when the escaped convict seizes him and demands he bring food and a file; Pip is delayed stirring the Christmas pudding for his sister but eventually escapes; Pip goes to the marshes to meet the convict but first meets another man who tries to hit Pip; Pip is kind to the original convict but he becomes aggressive). Discuss:
  - Why does Pip return to the convict?
  - What are the pros and cons of his doing so?
  - What would an adult tell Pip to do?
  - Does Pip's age make him compassionate or just foolish?

### Main activity 1 – Bible story sock puppets

- ❖ Whilst we might think Pip is doing a foolish/dangerous thing, a biblical interpretation might suggest otherwise. Divide students into groups of about 4 and allocate

groups one of the Bible stories each [**Resource A**]. Students remove a sock to quickly create a sock puppet show of the Bible story. (It might be useful to have some spare clean socks in case some students are not wearing socks!)

- Watch each story and discuss the meaning/message. According to the Bible passages, does Pip do the right thing?

### Main activity 2 – paired analysis of the passage

- ❖ Watch the film clip [**Resource B**] and follow along either in texts or on the extract [**Resource C**].
  - Student complete the following tasks in pairs:
    - Highlight words and quotations which suggest how the convict is suffering
      - Annotate with explanations
    - Highlight words and quotations which suggest Pip is showing compassion (kindness, care) towards the convict
      - Annotate with explanations
    - Summarise how Dickens presents the relationship between Pip and the convict
      - What does Dickens want us to think of Pip's behaviour?

### Main activity 3 – making predictions

- ❖ What information do we learn about the convict in chapters 1-3? Students skim read through texts in pairs and make lists of impressions then feedback and add to list
  - Mind map on the board how Dickens makes the reader interested in the convict. (E.g. by opening the novel with these events, by withholding information about him, by making the character a curious mix of anger and friendliness and vulnerability, his reaction to the other convict, etc.)

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- How might the relationship between Pip and the convict develop later in the novel? (Think back to the promises and warnings of the Bible stories)
  - Make predictions about the development of the story.

### **Plenary - reflections**

- ❖ What have we learnt from this process about:
  - Dickens' craft as a writer?
  - Dickens' use of biblical allusion?
  - How understanding biblical stories can change our understanding of texts?

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## **Resources**

### **Resource A – Bible passages**

#### **Matthew 25:31-46**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

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## **Luke 10: 25-37**

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**Resource B** – <http://www.crossref-it.info/articles/492/Great-Expectations-~-ch-3>

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## Resource C

### **Great Expectations** - Chapter 3 by Charles Dickens

I was soon at the Battery after that, and there was the ... Man,--hugging himself and limping to and fro, as if he had never all night left off hugging and limping,--waiting for me. He was awfully cold, to be sure. I half expected to see him drop down before my face and die of deadly cold. His eyes looked so awfully hungry too, that when I handed him the file and he laid it down on the grass, it occurred to me he would have tried to eat it, if he had not seen my bundle. He did not turn me upside down this time to get at what I had, but left me right side upwards while I opened the bundle and emptied my pockets.

'What's in the bottle, boy?'

'Brandy.'

He was already handing mincemeat down his throat in the most curious manner,--more like a man who was putting it away somewhere in a violent hurry, than a man who was eating it,--but he left off to take some of the liquor. He shivered all the while so violently, that it was quite as much as he could do to keep the neck of the bottle between his teeth, without biting it off.

'I think you have got the ague.'

'I'm much of your opinion, boy.'

'It's bad about here. You've been lying out on the meshes, and they're dreadful aguish. Rheumatic too.'

'You're not a deceiving imp? You brought no one with you?'

'No, sir! No!'

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'Well, I believe you. You'd be but a fierce young hound indeed, if at your time of life you could help to hunt a wretched warmint hunted as near death and dunghill as this poor wretched warmint is!'

Something clicked in his throat as if he had works in him like a clock, and was going to strike. And he smeared his ragged rough sleeve over his eyes.

Pitying his desolation, and watching him as he gradually settled down upon the pie, I made bold to say, 'I am glad you enjoy it.'

'Did you speak?'

'I said I was glad you enjoyed it.'

'Thankee, my boy. I do.'

## **Luke 10:30, 33-35, 37**

**<sup>30</sup>Jesus said, 'A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ... <sup>33</sup>But a ... Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, <sup>34</sup>And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, "Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." ... He ..shewed mercy on him. ... Go, and do thou likewise.'**