

Great Expectations: (d) Dickens' style

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine some of the main characteristics of Dickens' style in *Great Expectations*.
 - atmosphere
 - melodrama (caricature, exaggeration)
 - sentence lengths
 - use of dialogue; etc.

- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Write a short description of a storm from the perspective of the following locations: in a town, a busy theatre, a cosy home.
 - Read some out.

- ❖ **Textual examination:** Distribute the passage reference on the accompanying sheet of passage reference (*Great Expectations: (d)i* Dickens style).
 - Students should analyse each paragraph for style.
 - They may comment on events and character, but should concentrate on language, vocabulary, imagery, etc.
 - Discuss findings.
 - Expect to mention:
 - images (of clothes, darkness/light, home, weather, and others)
 - Dickens' eye for detail
 - some humour
 - irony

- ❖ **Recreative task:** Describe your own home as Dickens might write about it.

- ❖ **Critical task:** Write an analysis of Dickens' style in Chapter 21.

- ❖ **Extension task:** Compare Dickens' style with that of any other Victorian novelist that you have studied. Use the headings in the 'Textual examination' section as a guide.

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