

Investigate!

Great Expectations: Volume I, Chapters 11-15

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❖ **Chapter 11:**

- Look for evidence of Pip's confusion in relation to the various characters he meets on this visit
- Look for evidence of the social attitudes of Miss Havisham's relatives

❖ **Chapter 12:**

- Look in the description of Mr. Pumblechook's manhandling of Pip for signs that - in his mind at least - Pip is becoming more assertive and more critical about his treatment.
- What are Pip's expectations at this point? Do they seem realistic to you?
- This chapter tells the story in a different way to those that precede it:
 - Look at each paragraph in this chapter, and write 'present' or 'past' against each one, according to its point in time, paying particular attention to the tone of Pip's narrative.

❖ **Chapter 13:**

- Look at the opening paragraph
 - Is Pip's anxiety, that Joe might make a poor impression on Joe's behalf or his own? (Notice that he is less worried (further on in the chapter) about the impression that Mrs. Joe might make.)

- Look for further evidence throughout the chapter of Pip's observations and judgements of Joe's behaviour
- Look for indications that the dinner party gets out of hand
- Are we amused by Pumblechook's hypocrisy or do we share Pip's anger?
- In this chapter, Dickens writes of significant events in Pip's life, and describes his tangled feelings. He does this partly by presenting the unwelcome parts in a chapter of remarkable humour.
 - Look back over the chapter and note the ways in which he uses humour to make a serious point.

❖ **Chapter 14:**

- Look for evidence in this chapter of Pip's mental and moral isolation

❖ **Chapter 15:**

- There are several phrases in brackets in this chapter
 - What is their effect?
- How would you describe Pip's relationship with Orlick?
Have you any thoughts about who might have attacked Mrs Joe?