

Investigate!

Great Expectations: Volume II, Chapters 20-24

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❖ Chapter 20:

- How does Pip perceive his new surroundings, both consciously and unconsciously?
- How does Dickens present lawyers and the operations of the law?

❖ Chapter 21:

- Look for evidence of Dickens' methods of describing characters and places
- Look also for evidence of Herbert's character as he welcomes Pip to his rooms

❖ Chapter 22:

- How does Pip's assessment of Herbert begin to emerge in this chapter?
- What can we learn about Herbert from his behaviour towards Pip?
- Compare the language in this chapter describing the Pocket family with the language describing Mr. Jaggers and his business in the previous two chapters

❖ Chapter 23:

- Look carefully at the tone of this chapter, and at the references to such figures as the Lord Chancellor and the Archbishop of Canterbury
 - Compare the narrator's tone and subject matter with that of Chapter 19
- Whose 'voice' can you hear in Chapter 23?
- Look for evidence to show the connection between Mrs. Coiler's name and her nature
- Re-read the chapter and write an appreciation of the characters of Mr. and Mrs. Pocket as they presented here
 - In what ways do think their portrayals contribute to Dickens' theme of the nature of gentility?

❖ Chapter 24:

- Write a paragraph, including quotations, on the character of Mr. Wemmick as he is presented here
- Notice how Dickens makes use of the death masks (last seen in Chapter 20) to show Pip's growing knowledge of the city