

Investigate!

Great Expectations: Volume II, Chapters 35-39

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❖ Chapter 35:

Re-read the last paragraph of this chapter

- Is this Pip talking as he walks away that morning, or the older Pip reflecting on the event?

❖ Chapter 36:

Re-read the last paragraph of the chapter

- What does it tell the reader about Pip's understanding of people and their motives?

❖ Chapter 37:

- Re-read the paragraph beginning, 'It was worth any money to see Wemmick ...'
 - Compare its language and tone to the last paragraph of Chapter 36.
- Consider the ways in which Pip describes the people and the events of this chapter
 - What do we learn about his feelings at this time?

❖ Chapter 38:

- Re-read the two paragraphs beginning, 'I saw in this, wretched though it made me ...' and ending '... the gropings and the pausings of the beetles on the floor.'
 - What are the limitations of Pip's perceptions in this passage?
- In what ways does Dickens prepare the reader for the events of Volume 3 of the novel?

❖ Chapter 39:

- Re-read the section beginning, 'It was wretched weather' and ending '... and the day just closed as I sat down to read had been the worst of all.'
 - Consider the effects of Dickens's presentation of weather and place in the effects of this passage
- How does the convict greet Pip, and how does Pip react?
- What is the convict's idea of a gentleman?
- How does Dickens make use of light and dark in this chapter