

Investigate!

Great Expectations: Volume III, Chapters 55-59

Investigate! *Great Expectations:*

Volume III, Chapters 55-59

❖ Chapter 55:

- What do you think is the significance of the fishing rod for Wemmick?
 - Why do you think Dickens adds this detail?
- What do you think are the effects of placing this episode at this point in the novel?

❖ Chapter 56:

- How does Dickens go about creating the scene in the courtroom?
- What are the differences between the official view of Magwitch and what the reader knows of his character and history?
- How does Pip behave during the trial?
 - How does it compare with his earlier attitude towards Magwitch?

❖ Chapter 57:

- Re-read Ch. 2; Vol. 1, Ch. 2 for an account of Mrs. Joe's methods of dealing with Pip and Joe
- Note the stages by which Pip reaches a new

understanding of Joe and Biddy in this chapter

- Re-read the paragraph beginning 'That I had a fever and was avoided' and consider Dickens' methods in expressing Pip's delirious perceptions
- Re-read the paragraph beginning 'The purpose was, that I would go to Biddy ...' at the end of the chapter and consider the tone.
 - Compare its tone to Pip's statements to Biddy in Ch. 35; Vol. 2, Ch. 16. What differences, if any, do you think Biddy might see in what he says?

❖ Chapter 58:

- Re-read what Mr. Pumblechook says in the Blue Boar
- Note how effectively he gets under Pip's skin
 - Note also the stages by which Pip grows less affected by what he says.

❖ Chapter 59:

- Re-read the last paragraph
- What do you think it suggests?