



Great Expectations



*Retold from the Charles Dickens original
by Deanna McFadden*

Illustrated by Eric Freeberg



STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They

are designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. When Pip first comes across Magwitch in the churchyard, the convict threatens to hurt him if he doesn't bring him a file and food. Why do you think Pip doesn't simply tell his sister and Joe what happened instead of stealing the food from the pantry? What would you have done in Pip's situation?

2. What is the relationship between Joe and Pip? Do you think they are more like family or more like friends? Do you have any friends who you consider to be like family? Any family members you consider to be good friends?

3. Why do you think Estella treats Pip the

way she does when they first met? Does her behavior toward him change by the end of the story? Have you ever made friends with someone you didn't like at first?

4. Why do you think Miss Havisham requests Pip's company at Manor House? Do you think you would have enjoyed spending time there? Would you and Miss Havisham have gotten along well?

5. When Mr. Jaggers tells Pip that he has come into money, Pip's life suddenly changes. He plans to move to London to become a gentleman. Do you think he has a choice about this? If you were given the choice, would you have stayed at home with Joe or gone to London?

6. Herbert and Pip become friends right away, even though they had that fight at Manor House years ago. Do you think the roommates have a strong friendship? Do you have any friends with whom you would like to live?

7. In the book, Pip becomes a “gentleman.” What is your definition of a true gentleman? Does Pip live up to that definition?

8. When Magwitch comes to Pip in London, he calls himself Provis. Why do you think he changes his name? Have you ever wanted to change your name? Why?

9. Why do you suppose Miss Havisham asks Pip to promise her he’d always remain Estella’s friend? Would you have promised Miss Havisham the same?

10. When Estella and Pip meet again in the last scene at Manor House, how do they seem to feel about each other? What do you think happens with them after the story ends?