One example of how money brings out the worst in people is the greedy nature of Miss Havisham’s relatives. “They [are] all toadies and humbugs” who continually attempt to ingratiate themselves to Miss Havisham in an attempt to inherit a part of her fortune (Dickens 92). All of them are jealous of Pip, and treat him with the “utmost contempt” because they fear Miss Havisham favors him over them (Dickens 93). Though Miss Havisham’s relations share a common goal and sometimes visit her together, their greed causes them to view each other as rivals and obstacles to her fortune. When Miss Havisham is dismissive toward one relative, the others “[brighten] when [she is] met with this rebuff” (Dickens 97). Estella had always been desirable though she was “so much more womanly...and [had an] inaccessibility...about her” (Dickens 184). Pip remembered almost every little thing about Estella though she brushed off memories, and acted as if Pip were still a mere child, making him “cry again, inwardly” as a boy once more (Dickens 186). To add to his despair he had nothing to fall back on, for he was “fit for nothing” and could not find a place in her upper class world (Dickens 267).
As an example, when Pip first met her, she had called him “a common labouring-boy” which changed how he thought of himself (Dickens 57).

When Estella insults Pip’s clothing and appearance, “[his] opinion of those accessories” changes, and he becomes disgusted with them and himself (Dickens 71). Once Pip is apprenticed to Joe, he becomes upset because, although “[he] had liked it once,” he now has greater ambitions (Dickens 119). Pip becomes “ashamed of home” (Dickens 120). Guilt and the knowledge that his ambitions will not be fulfilled make him unhappy.

Pip’s hopeless, romantic relationship with Estella motivated him to become a gentleman and try to be worthy of her status. He knew “[his] society was less open to her reproach,” meaning that her society wasn’t accepting of Pip’s lifestyle (Dickens 121). Pip had even admitted that “[he wanted] to be a gentleman on her account” (Dickens 142). His wanting to change happened early in their relationship when Estella complained of Pip being “a common laboring boy” and having “course hands” and “thick boots” (Dickens 66).

This is expressed when Joe visits and Pip states that “if [he] could have kept [Joe] away by paying him money, [Pip] certainly would have” (Dickens 241).