

Class and Snobbery

- Based on the events of the novel, did Dickens think that social status leads to snobbery?
- How is Pip's social status linked to his snobbery throughout the course of the novel?
- How is the mystery surrounding Pip's benefactor linked to his snobbery throughout the course of the novel?
- How is Pip's changing relationship benefactor linked to his snobbery throughout the course of the novel?

Money and Its Effect on People

- How does Pip's social status linked to his ability to deal with the problems he faces in life throughout the story?
- What lesson about money is Dickens trying to teach through his characters' displays of greed and generosity?
- How does Pip's bank account link to the way he relates to his family and friends?
- Using character examples, what did Dickens think about money's effect on people?

Childhood

- In what specific ways does Pip's past directly affect his adult life?
- Were Pip's failures/successes in life determined by his choices or by circumstances outside of his control?
- What is the role of the convict in Pip's personal turn around in the novel?

Guilt and Broken Dream

- Connect something Pip is guilty about with one of his goals/dreams.
- How is Pip's fear of the convict as a child related to his desire to be a gentleman?
- How is Pip's love for Estella as a child linked to his desire to be a gentleman?
- How is Pip's changing relationship with his family and friends (Joe and Biddy) his desire to be a gentleman?

Revenge

- How are Magwitch's and Havisham's desires for revenge linked/similar/different?
- What is Dickens trying to say about people's desire for revenge through his characters in the novel?
- How does Havisham's lust for revenge backfire on her through the course of the book?

Justice and the Law

- Based on the events of the story, what was Dickens' opinion of the legal system?
- How does Jaggers represent the legal system of Dickens' day?
- Does Dickens treat his characters fairly (where they/how they end up)?
- How is the legal system in Pip's world related to (justice) fairness?

Pursuit and Mystery

- How does Dickens use this theme to keep his readers interested?
- How is Pip's pursuit of Estella also one of the book's ironic mysteries?
- How is Pip's sudden rise to gentleman status also one of the book's ironic mysteries?

Death and Loneliness

- How does Dickens' link the experiences of death and loneliness in the novel?
- How is death used to symbolize characters' experiences with loneliness (Pip and Havisham)?
- What do instances of death (Mrs. Joe) and loneliness (Estella) show about Pip's changing character throughout the book?

Love and Forgiveness

- What is Dickens attempting to show the reader about the meaning of true love through the characters of the novel?
- Analyze the connection between Havisham and Pip in the book, focusing on their experiences with love and forgiveness throughout their lives.