

## Great Expectations Quote ID Quiz Answers

1. “God knows **you**’re welcome to **it**—so far as it was ever mine. **We** don’t know what you have done, but we wouldn’t have you starved to death for it, poor miserable fellow-creatur.—Would us, Pip?” (Norton Chapter 5, p. 36/Oxford p. 39 bottom)

**Speaker:** Joe

**Person Spoken To:** Magwitch

**Context:** The police have captured Magwitch and brought him to Joe’s residence, and Magwitch has admitted that he ate the pie baked by Mrs. Joe (the “it” in the quotation).

**Significance:** This quotation shows Joe’s compassion, as well as his solidarity with Pip. Joe’s kind attitude and character also likely contribute to Magwitch’s determination to show his gratitude to Pip.

2. “But **you** said to **me**, ‘God bless you, God forgive you!’ And if you could say that to me **then**, you will not hesitate to say that to me **now**—now, when **suffering** has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but—I hope—into a better shape. Be as considerate and good to me as you were, and tell me we are friends.” (Norton Chapter 59, p. 358/Oxford p. 478 bottom)

**Speaker:** Estella

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Estella says this to Pip when they meet again at the end of the novel, after years of being apart. She wants to express her guilt and her desire to have Pip’s friendship and goodwill. (“Then” refers to the last time they parted.)

**Significance:** Estella’s change in character and attitude is an example of the themes of personal growth and maturation, learning empathy and compassion, learning from one’s own suffering, and achieving forgiveness and redemption through these things. It also reflects the idea that because they have both become better people, Pip and Estella are now capable of feeling a deeper, truer love for each other. Estella’s suffering consists not only of the way Miss Havisham raised her, but also her emotional isolation and emptiness, and her unpleasant life with Drummle.

3. “I don’t suffer it to be spoken of. I don’t suffer those who were here just now, or any one, to speak of it. **They** come here on the day, but they dare not refer to it.” (Norton Chapter 11, p. 72/Oxford p. 87 middle)

**Speaker:** Miss Havisham

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Miss Havisham says this to Pip after her money-grubbing relatives have visited her on her birthday and left. (“They” are her relatives; “it” refers to her birthday, but it primarily refers to the specific day she was abandoned by her fiancé.)

**Significance:** This quote shows the depth of Miss Havisham’s bitterness over her abandonment by her fiancé, as well as her paradoxical attitude toward it. She cannot bear to hear even a mention of the event that defines her current existence, but the reality of it constantly surrounds her, by her own choice. It also expressed the idea that those who cannot transcend their past through growth and redemption will always be haunted by it.

4. Speaker A: “Like **you**, you fool, giving holidays to **great idle hulkers like that**. You are a rich man, upon my life, to waste wages in that way. I wish *I* was his master!”

Speaker B: “**You**’d be everybody’s master, if you durst.” (Norton Chapter 15 p. 91/92, Oxford p. 111)

**Speakers:** Mrs. Joe (A), Orlick (B)

**Persons Spoken To:** Joe (A), Mrs. Joe (B)

**Context:** This conflict occurs after Joe has agreed to allow Orlick to have half a day off (since Pip is getting half a day off). The “great idle hulker” is Orlick.

**Significance:** This exchange intensifies the dislike between Mrs. Joe and Orlick and sets up their later conflict. It also typifies Mrs. Joe's constant criticism of and dissatisfaction with Joe, as well as her tendency to want to control people. One of the lessons conveyed by the novel is that those who mistreat others will eventually reap what they have sown, while those who treat others with compassion will come to a happy end.

5. "You can take a hackney-coach at the stage coach-office in London, and come straight to me. Understand, that I express no opinion, one way or the other, on **the trust I undertake**. I am paid for undertaking it, and I do so. Now, understand that, finally. Understand that!" (Norton Chapter 18, p. 112/Oxford p. 140 top)

**Speaker:** Mr. Jaggers

**Person Spoken To:** Pip (and Joe)

**Context:** This quotation comes from Jaggers's meeting with Pip and Joe at their residence, when he reveals Pip's "great expectations"; arranging Pip's path to being a gentleman is the "trust" he has undertaken.

**Significance:** This quote shows that Jaggers is an example of the stereotypical English professional who is "all business" and tries to maintain a personal and emotional distance from his clients' affairs. It also reveals his state of agitation, caused by Joe's threatening manner (Joe was upset by what he saw as an implication that money could be worth as much to him as Pip's friendship).

6. "When I was a hired-out shepherd in a solitary hut, not seeing no faces but faces of sheep till I half forgot wot men's and women's faces was like, I see yourn. I drops my knife many a time in that hut when I was a eating my dinner or my supper, and I says, 'Here's the boy again, a looking at me whiles I eats and drinks!' I see **you** there, a many times, as plain as ever I see you on them misty marshes.'" (Norton Chapter 39, p. 241/Oxford p. 315)

**Speaker:** Magwitch

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Magwitch has just revealed to Pip that he is Pip's benefactor, and he takes so much satisfaction in having achieved his goal and being able to deliver this news that he is oblivious to Pip's abhorrence and dismay upon learning it.

**Significance:** Magwitch's earnestness and the intensity of his emotion are moving and cause the reader to feel compassion for him and to be disappointed in Pip's initial reaction, which should be one of gratitude. It reveals the extent of Magwitch's suffering and the depth of his desire to repay Pip's "kindness" (which was really motivated more by fear) and achieve a sense of redemption. His desire to help Pip has given his life a purpose and value and inspired him to persevere through adversity. The value of helping others—its contribution to one's spiritual satisfaction and sense of self-worth—is one of the lessons of the novel.

7. "That was a memorable day to **me**, for it made great changes in me. But, it is the same with any life. Imagine one selected day struck out of it, and think how different its course would have been." (Norton Chapter 9, p. 60/Oxford p. 71)

**Speaker:** Pip (narration)

**Person Spoken To:** reader

**Context:** Pip makes this narrative comment after the day he first goes to Satis House, when he falls for Estella and starts to despise his current self and life.

**Significance:** One theme that this quotation conveys is the arbitrariness of fate—that one chance event, the experiences of one day, can have a profound effect on the entire course of a person's life. It also illustrates the (sometimes harmful) psychological effect that exposure to new people and things can have on people, especially the young and impressionable; Pip has quickly learned to be dissatisfied with himself and his life and to have morally and emotionally corrosive ambitions for something more. He wants to be a gentleman, but the events of the novel will teach him that being a gentleman is about having character, not about having money and social status and the "manners" of the wealthy.

8. “No, ma’am, I am very sorry for **you**, and very sorry I can’t play just now. If you complain of me I shall get into trouble with my sister, so I would do it if I could; but it’s so new **here**, and so strange, and so fine—and melancholy—” (Norton Chapter 8, p. 51/Oxford p. 58)

**Speaker:** Pip

**Person Spoken To:** Miss Havisham

**Context:** Pip says this to Miss Havisham on his first visit to Satis House (the “here” in the quotation), when he is quite frightened and bewildered by what he has seen.

**Significance:** This quotation conveys the effect of Miss Havisham’s bitter obsession and ghoulish appearance on the callow Pip, but it also conveys a certain fascination on his part with what he has seen—its newness, grandness, and intensity. He is so emotionally overwhelmed that he can’t bring himself to play, even with the threat of punishment by his sister. It also shows his sensitivity and the potential for him to become a compassionate person.

9. “But my dear young friend, **you** must be hungry, you must be exhausted. Be seated. Here is a chicken had round from the Boar, here is a tongue had round from the Boar, here’s one or two little things had round from the Boar, that I hope you may not despise. But do I see afore me, him as ever I sported with in his times of happy infancy? And may I—*may I?*” (Norton Chapter 19, p. 120/Oxford p. 150)

**Speaker:** Mr. Pumblechook

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Pip is in town to get fitted for his new clothes, a few days before he leaves for London. Mr. Pumblechook is flattering Pip because he knows that Pip is going to be a gentleman, and he obviously hopes to gain some personal advantage from Pip’s status.

**Significance:** One of the issues the novel explores is the flaws and failings of a highly stratified, class-conscious society. Deep concern with status and money leads to the kind of insincerely obsequious behavior that Mr. Pumblechook demonstrates here (as a person who has always been critical and condescending, not friendly, toward Pip), as well as to corruption of moral values, poisonous attitudes of superiority or inferiority (and arrogance or self-loathing), and a lack of compassion for others.

10. “...if it is to spite **her**, I should think—but **you** know best—that might be better and more independently done by caring nothing for her words. And if it is to gain her over, I should think—but you know best—she was not worth gaining over.” (Norton Chapter 17, p. 102/Oxford p. 126)

**Speaker:** Biddy

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Biddy says this to Pip after Pip reveals his crush on Estella and his feelings of despair over being “coarse and common.”

**Significance:** Biddy shows her wisdom and Pip’s foolishness—which are both obvious to the reader—and emphasizes them by ironically repeating “but you know best” when it is clear he doesn’t. Biddy is a wise, perceptive, clear-sighted person who doesn’t allow her kind and compassionate nature to be corrupted by the opinions of others. She sees that Estella’s bitter nature means that she is “not worth gaining over” and will only cause Pip pain, and her advice is sensible. But it also influenced by her own fondness for Pip, to which he is oblivious because of his obsession with Estella. The reader wishes that Pip would realize that he has an opportunity to be happy with her, but he fails to appreciate her until the opportunity is gone. This motif of regret is connected with the actions of several characters in the novel.

11. “**You** had a child once, whom you loved and lost. **She** lived and found **powerful friends**. She is living now. She is a lady and very beautiful. And I love her!” (Norton Chapter 56, p. 342/Oxford p. 455)

**Speaker:** Pip

**Person Spoken To:** Magwitch

**Context:** Pip says these words to Magwitch just before Magwitch dies. He wants to give some consolation and comfort to Magwitch. “She” is Estella, and the “powerful friends” are Miss Havisham and her social circle.

**Significance:** One aspect of this quotation is the series of coincidences it reflects. Though it is unlikely that all of these things should happen, it seems appropriate, as though twists of fate happen by some design in order to redeem the suffering of good people and give it meaning. It is also ironic but appropriate (and no doubt deeply satisfying for Magwitch) that she, the child of a convict, should have become a lady by chance, just as Pip has become a gentleman through his conscious efforts. That Pip should place so much importance on caring for and comforting Magwitch during the last days of his life also emphasizes the spiritual and moral growth he has undergone.

12. “I dare say that **you** wouldn’t lend money to any of **us**, if we wanted it.” (Norton Chapter 26, p. 167/Oxford p. 213 middle)

**Speaker:** Pip

**Person Spoken To:** Drummle

**Context:** At a party, Pip, Herbert, and others (“us”) are discussing the money that Herbert lent Drummle. Pip realizes that Drummle not only doesn’t care about Herbert’s generosity but actually despises him as a fool for it, so he challenges Drummle to admit his hypocritical attitude.

**Significance:** Numerous examples of the lending of money occur in the novel, and those who are willing to lend money to others are shown to be not foolish, but compassionate and helpful. In a society in which wealth is distributed in an extremely inequitable way, lending money can be a powerful form of aid.

13. “Hah! Churchyard, indeed! You may well say churchyard, **you two**. You’ll drive **me** to the churchyard betwixt you, one of these days, and oh, a pr-r-recious pair you’d be without me!” (Norton Chapter 2, p. 14/Oxford p. 10)

**Speaker:** Mrs. Joe

**Person Spoken To:** Pip, Joe

**Context:** Mrs. Joe has just returned home to discover that Pip has also returns. He claims to have been at the churchyard, which she ironically takes as a reference to the cemetery in the churchyard (and, figuratively, to death).

**Significance:** This quotation further reveals the extent of Mrs. Joe’s sense of aggrievement—according to her, her life is like that of a domestic servant, and Joe and Pip constantly frustrate, worry, and annoy her. Her words are ironic on a number of levels: first, it is more likely that she will drive Joe and Pip to the grave than that they will do so to her; second, she uses the word “precious” in a sarcastic way to suggest that they wouldn’t be able to take care of themselves and would suffer without her; third, the reader knows that they actually *would* be better off without her, so her sarcasm is actually ironic.

14. “My Dear! Believe this: when **she** first came to me, I meant to save her from **misery like my own**. At first I meant no more.” (Norton Chapter 49, p. 298/Oxford p. 395)

**Speaker:** Miss Havisham

**Person Spoken To:** Pip

**Context:** Miss Havisham is revealing Estella’s background to Pip and begging his forgiveness for what she has done, including her arranging for Estella to marry Drummle, which she knows will cause Pip great pain. “Misery like my own” refers to her bitterness at her treatment by the man she was supposed to marry.

**Significance:** Miss Havisham’s recognition of the evil of her actions and her desire for forgiveness reflect the novel’s motif of redemption. Because she has changed, and because Pip is willing to forgive her, she is able to achieve a sense of redemption before she dies.