

### **Great Expectations Essay Prompts**

*Carefully consider the following prompts. Develop a thesis for one of them, and then write an essay in which you present a detailed, thoughtfully reasoned, well-supported argument in defense of your thesis.*

1. Discuss the process of growth that Pip undergoes in the novel. What are his values and goals early in the story, and what are they at the end of the novel? What events and experiences cause this transformation?
2. Discuss one character who is presented in a positive light in the story. What qualities make him or her a heroic or admirable figure?
3. Which of the two endings do you find more aesthetically and/or emotionally satisfying? Decide which one you think is superior, and then develop an argument in defense of your choice.
4. How is the motif of redemption presented and developed in the novel? You can make reference to various elements such as character, style, and plot in developing your argument.
5. Discuss the style in which the novel is written. What are its most significant characteristics? How does each of these characteristics contribute to the effectiveness of the work? Refer to specific examples in presenting your argument.
6. How does the novel define “gentleman”—what are the characteristics of a gentleman? What conception does the young Pip initially have in the novel, and what conception does he end the novel with?