

# The Starring Role of Expectations in Pip's Life in Great Expectations

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## INTRODUCTION

Man and expectations are a match made in heaven. Expectations bound every man. High expectations in life sometimes lead to success and pain and distress. Here is the life of an ordinary man, Pip, who has Great Expectations, which are quite normal desires, in his life. The role of expectations is the major part that takes the story ahead in Great Expectations by Charles Dickens.

## EXPECTATION'S ROLE

Charles Dickens is said to be as central to the Victorian novel as Tennyson is to Victorian poetry. Great Expectations is an important work in his late years and its story is not complicated. It tells how the poor country boy Philip Pirrip (Pip) grows up with false expectations to finally return to a rather cruel exposure to reality. Great Expectations works on several levels: as a critique of Victorian society and as an exploration of memory and writing. However, it is perhaps, more importantly, a search for true identity. During the course of the novel, Pip comes to realize that his “great expectations”—social standing and wealth—are less important than loyalty and compassion. Great Expectations was also noted for its humour, mystery, and tragedy blend. In the original ending of the work, Pip and Estella were not reunited, but Dickens was persuaded to write a happier conclusion.

Pip is an Orphan who lives with his unkind sister. Here is the biggest expectation in the life of Pip Starts. Since he has lost his parents, the next hope for any human is their brother or sister. Here Pip fails tragically and expects love from his sister. Being in a poor background, Pip's lifetime goal is to be a blacksmith and to become a gentleman. This is his next expectation. Then the greatest of all expectations is Pip's love for Estella, and he wants to marry her.

So these are the four greatest expectations of Pip – love, education, money, and social upliftment. Initially, Pip fails in attaining all these things but later he could manage to have a better understanding of life and starts to involve himself in the uplifting process.

Every human desires and expectations in life. Likewise, Pip's greatest expectations in life take him to different situations and difficulties in life. Pip is a very kind and humble human initially later his over-expectations make him an irresponsible and unkind human. He loses interest in his closest human beings.

Take for example Estella, Pip's dream girl. Here the expectations and social class take away Pip's peace. Because Estella belongs to the high class which is highly contradictory to Pip. The unkind fact, the love Pip remains unsaid since he is not in a state to reveal all these things. This shows that Pip's life is an example of poor humans in society. Every human does have wishes in their life but if the poor have desires it is sometimes like a great sin. Because the poor will always remain like a slave under high-class people.

The next desire is to get good education Pip also wishes the same. Again the factor of low class hits him hard. Even Pip becomes negligent when he is offered studies. All the happenings in Pip's life made him lethargic and ignorant. He spends meaningless and has debts though he gets the amount from Miss Havisham. Initially, Pip has the wish to become intelligent, and knowledgeable and to get a good education. Everything vanishes as the day passes.

This is also a natural habit of every human. Once life takes a human on a rough path. They forget where they begin and why they begin. So life becomes hopeless and human starts to accept everything as such though they have a bagful of expectations. The same thing happens to Pip. He gets distracted from his way once he gets attracted

to vanity things. It can also be considered as Estella's arrival in Pip's arrival and his concern towards her and the desire to marry her has taken him aback from his first and foremost expectations in life.

Then the greatest interest and expectation in every human's life is to uplift their social identity. This happens in the life of Pip too. He always wanted to be a gentleman and to have a rich lifestyle. People always concentrate on class, rich, and respect. But this is not at all a real need. Pip also wishes the same. This makes Pip restless when he did not concentrate on other things in life. Though it is his expectation he also didn't take steps to uplift himself properly. But at the end of the story, Pip managed to attain his expectations. The condition of his social class is somehow lifted. He can get to meet Estella again and he believes that they will never be apart.

In this story, expectations take Pip in the right as well as in the wrong way. To attain his expectation he steps down from his humble character. Though at the end life has taught him to be good and kind again. The biggest take-off from this story is it is ok to have expectations but what is not ok is to lose the path or not distract from the goal. It may delay success and sometimes life became too hopeless like in the case of Pip. Yet he struggles to attain at least half of his expectations.