



Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
Reviewed by Jade



Stand Alone, Historical Fiction/Melodrama

Give a summary without spoilers!

Great Expectations is a Historical Fiction novel set in nineteenth century London, England. The story mostly takes place around the marshlands and follows an orphan boy named Pip throughout his childhood and early adult years. Pip undergoes a sudden culture shock when he unexpectedly comes into a large fortune and leaves his country life as a blacksmith's apprentice to become a high-society gentleman in England. As Pip experiences feelings of love, pain, and sorrow while meeting many new faces along the way, the audience can get an inside look at his internal battles surrounding topics such as social status, wealth, and self-improvement. This classic novel is inarguably one of the greatest pieces of literature of all time, and it surely meets the criteria of great expectations.

What drew you to this book?

What really drew me into this story was Miss Havisham's character. She is such a complex entity and even though her story line is bizarre, the emotion created within the text allows the reader to empathize with her and understand her situation. She is one of my favorite overall book characters and I think any reader would appreciate her storyline.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

Yes! Miss Havisham's character reminded me of Bellatrix from *Harry Potter* as well as Morticia Addams from the *Addams Family*.

To whom would you recommend this book?

I would recommend this to people who enjoy romance as well as historical fiction. This book includes many different different topics like romance, social status, and various interesting self conflicts without overwhelming the reader. The text does a great job of addressing complex social issues while also having a diverse plot that keeps the reader engaged with the story.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

I loved this book and would absolutely recommend it to others. While there are many complex different plots, they are all interesting and hook the reader in until the very end. I also love the way the book had two very different endings for Pip's fate because it allows the reader's imagination to be satisfied. I believe everyone should have a chance to read this book in their lifetime, not only because of the plot and characters, but also the life lessons that are taught in the midst of the chaotic stories.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

I heard about Great Expectations from one of my teachers at school. I did not think I would like it at first, but I was pleasantly surprised. This book was my gateway into Charles Dickens literature and I have not looked back since!