

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions on the excerpt of *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

1. Where and when do the events take place? How does this setting affect the overall mood and atmosphere of the passage? Use evidence from the text and explain your answer.

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2. How did Dickens inject a sense of suspense, horror and fear throughout the passage using diction? List as many words and phrases as you can from the passage to support your answer.

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3. After reading Pip’s description of the man, select three details that might help to create a more sympathetic and pathetic picture of this terrifying man.

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4. On page two, line three “he ate the bread ravenously”, what does the word ravenously imply?

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5. From your reading, how can you infer that the man was very cold? Refer to the passage.

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6. Which of the below words are connected to Pip and which to the fearful man? How did Dickens use them to portray both characters and give impressions about them?

Pleaded Powerfully Timidly Trembling Strong Threatening Helplessly

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7. Based on your understanding of the last paragraph in the passage, Pip’s mother and father were

- a) alive but away
- b) dead
- c) there with him

8. “Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. “Keep still, you little devil, or I’ll cut your throat!” What is the tone in this sentence?

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9. From your reading, how do you draw the conclusion that Pip was an orphan?

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10. "O! Don't cut my throat, sir," I pleaded in terror. Find a synonym for the word pleaded.

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