RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · GREAT EXPECTATIONS · DRILL 1

Ashamed of the forge

Pip and his expectations

Today: how Dickens presents Pip’s shame at his home and his work

30 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. What is Joe Gargery’s trade?
2. What does “apprentice” mean?
3. In which house does Pip first meet Estella?
4. Who tells the story: the boy Pip or the grown man?
5. What does “ingratitude” mean?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. What is Joe Gargery’s trade?
   Blacksmith

2. What does “apprentice” mean?
   A young person who learns a trade by working for a master (Pip works for Joe).

3. In which house does Pip first meet Estella?
   Satis House, Miss Havisham’s house

4. Who tells the story: the boy Pip or the grown man?
   The grown man, looking back (the older narrator).

5. What does “ingratitude” mean?
   Failing to be thankful for kindness

Focus reminder

Know

What the Great Expectations question asks you to do

Start with the extract: find two or three short quotations that answer the question.

Write “Dickens presents…”. Pip, Joe and Magwitch are characters Dickens built, so write about his choices.

Then move to the novel as a whole: where else does Dickens show this? Use at least two other chapters.

Say why: what does Dickens want the reader to think about shame and pride?

Ashamed of the forge

Read

Charles Dickens · 1861 · Chapter 14

What I dreaded was, that in some unlucky hour I, being at my grimiest and commonest, should lift up my eyes and see Estella looking in at one of the wooden windows of the forge. I was haunted by the fear that she would, sooner or later, find me out, with a black face and hands, doing the coarsest part of my work, and would exult over me and despise me. Often after dark, when I was pulling the bellows for Joe, and we were singing Old Clem, and when the thought how we used to sing it at Miss Havisham's would seem to show me Estella's face in the fire, with her pretty hair fluttering in the wind and her eyes scorning me—often at such a time I would look towards those panels of black night in the wall which the wooden windows then were, and would fancy that I saw her just drawing her face away, and would believe that she had come at last.