

Great Expectations: Pip Meets a Criminal

Name: _____

Charles Dickens published *Great Expectations* in 1860. It is the story of Phillip Pirrip, called Pip, growing up from a young boy to a man. Both of Pip's parents have died, and he lives with his adult sister.

Below are two related passages from the book. In the passages, Pip is visiting his parents' graves in the church cemetery when he meets an escaped convict.



from Chapter I

The man, after looking at me for a moment, turned me upside down, and emptied my pockets. There was nothing in them but a piece of bread. When the church came to itself,—for he was so sudden and strong that he made it go head over heels before me, and I saw the steeple under my feet,—when the church came to itself, I say, I was seated on a high tombstone, trembling while he ate the bread ravenously...

...“You get me a file.” He tilted me again. “And you get me wittles.” He tilted me again. “You bring ‘em both to me.” He tilted me again. “Or I’ll have your heart and liver out.” He tilted me again.

I was dreadfully frightened, and so giddy that I clung to him with both hands, and said, “If you would kindly please to let me keep upright, sir, perhaps I shouldn’t be sick, and perhaps I could attend more.”

He gave me a most tremendous dip and roll, so that the church jumped over its own weathercock. Then, he held me by the arms, in an upright position on the top of the stone, and went on in these fearful terms:—

“You bring me, to-morrow morning early, that file and them wittles. You bring the lot to me, at that old Battery over yonder. You do it, and you never dare to say a word or dare to make a sign concerning your having seen such a person as me, or any person sumever, and you shall be let to live. You fail, or you go from my words in any partickler, no matter how small it is, and your heart and your liver shall be tore out, roasted, and ate. Now, I ain’t alone, as you may think I am. There’s a young man hid with me, in comparison with which young man I am a Angel. That young man hears the words I speak. That young man has a secret way pecooliar to himself, of getting at a boy, and at his heart, and at his liver. It is in wain for a boy to attempt to hide himself from that young man. A boy may lock his door, may be warm in bed, may tuck himself up, may draw the clothes over his head, may think himself comfortable and safe, but that young man will softly creep and creep his way to him and tear him open. I am a keeping that young man from harming of you at the present moment, with great difficulty. I find it very hard to hold that young man off of your inside. Now, what do you say?”

Answer the Questions:

1. In the man's speech he says “wittles” for vittles. What are vittles?
2. The man speaks with a specific accent, often pronouncing the letter *v* as *w*. Besides “wittles” listed above, what is another word he pronounces this way?
3. What does the man want Pip to bring him?
4. The man speaks about a young man with him. Who is more violent: the man speaking or the young man in hiding?
5. Is the narrator in this passage in first person or third person?

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Answer the Questions:

Student's answers may vary; examples of correct answers:

1. In the man's speech he says “wittles” for vittles. What are vittles?

food

2. The man speaks with a specific accent, often pronouncing the letter *v* as *w*. Besides “wittles” listed above, what is another word he pronounces this way?

wery

3. What does the man want Pip to bring him?

food and a file (tool)

4. The man speaks about a young man with him. Who is more violent: the man speaking or the young man in hiding?

the young man

5. Is the narrator in this passage in first person or third person?

first person