

2009 Summer Reading for Sophomore English Advanced Standing

Read these two books by the time school starts the week of August 17.

***Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones.** This 2006 novel is the story of Matilda, a young woman caught in a war on a small island in the south Pacific. Her teacher, her parents, and the character of Pip from *Great Expectations* sustain her through the hardship of the war. I suggest that you read this first to whet your appetite for...

***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (Stage One: Chapters 1-19).** Many consider this to be Dickens' finest novel. It traces the life of an orphan, Pip, as he makes his way in the world and learns more and more about himself. In the first stage of the book, you will read comic scenes from Pip's childhood and his time of apprenticeship to the village blacksmith. You will also encounter scary convicts, an eccentric wealthy recluse, and many people who are drawn to wealth. Stage One of the novel is set in the marshy countryside near Rochester, England. Read the first 19 chapters on your own; we will read the rest of the novel together in class.

Assignments for *Mister Pip*

Research the island of Bougainville. (This is for your own help at visualizing the setting; you do not have to take notes or hand in anything.) A tropical paradise with glorious beaches and beautiful flowering plants, sadly, it has been a war zone during the last 20 years. Since 1989, more than 10,000 of its 120,000 people have died in a war having to do with an independence movement that shut down a copper mine. These web sites have photos of the local people.

- www.dismalworld.com/violence/bougainville_rev
- www.japanfocus.org/-Hamish-McDonald/2214

Mister Pip notes and paragraph: Plan to hand in these the first week of school.

#1 through #4 may be clearly handwritten or typed; #5 must be typed.

1. Make a page labeled Mr. Watts.
 - a. He defines a gentleman as a man who never forgets his manners, no matter how awful or difficult the situation. Note situations where he lives up this code.
 - b. Write down two other significant things Mr. Watts says. We will discuss these in class.
 - c. Note how Mr. Watts' story about his own life matches (or does not match) what Matilda discovers at the end of the book.
 - d. Look for clues that reveal why he pulls Grace around in a trolley. What is the reason for the red nose? By the end of the story, you will find out.
2. Parents and village people take turns teaching at the school. Choose one of these lessons that you like. Sketch a picture of that lesson or its symbolism, and label it with a sentence or two.
3. Make a page for Matilda's parents.
 - a. Matilda's mother Doris
 - i. What is her attitude toward Mr. Watts, and why?
 - ii. Explain her reaction to Matilda's writing PIP on the beach.
 - iii. By the end of the story, does she redeem herself after stealing the book from Mr. Watts? Explain.
 - b. Matilda's father
 - i. What does she learn about him after she leaves the island?

4. Make a Venn Diagram comparing *Mister Pip* to *Lord of the Flies*. How are they the same, how different? Setting, Themes (at least one from each book), Characters (at least one from each book), and Conflicts. Also look for motifs—objects that occur many times during a story that may be symbolic.
5. How does knowing *Great Expectations* give Matilda permission to change her life? Type a paragraph with your ideas. If you can, cite ideas from the text. Please double-space.

Assignments for *Great Expectations* (first 19 chapters)

Read this in August; you do not want to forget the novel before school starts!

As you read, remember that Dickens used his stories to point out injustice in England where he was a boy like Pip, ambitious but poor. Notice scenes where he might be making fun of someone or pointing out things that are not fair. Two characters in these chapters seem to be more stable and moral than the rest. Note how they handle life's temptations compared to everyone else. Also consider this question: What can **infatuation** do to a person? Look up **infatuation**, and be thinking of this as you read.

Please be able to answer these questions. You do not have to hand in notes; however, the second day of class, expect a multiple-choice reading quiz on the first 19 chapters.

Chapters 1-7

1. Where and how does Pip encounter a convict? Why does Pip help him?
2. Describe Mrs. Joe's treatment of Pip. In what ways is Pip's relationship with Joe different from his relationship with his sister?
3. What does Pip steal from Mrs. Joe's house? Why?
4. After the convict is caught, what does he say to protect Pip? How does Pip feel about his actions toward the convict?
5. How does Joe feel about his wife? Why do you think he puts up with her treatment?

Chapters 8-12

6. Why is Pip sent to the home of Miss Havisham?
7. What is odd about Miss Havisham's house?
8. Describe Estella and how she treats Pip.
9. How does Pip feel after he leaves, and why does he decide to lie about his experiences there?
10. Why do Pip and the "pale young gentleman" fight?

Chapters 13-19

11. What do Joe and Miss Havisham talk about? If a guinea is worth about \$3, how much does she give to Pip?
12. How has Pip's attitude toward his home and blacksmithing changed?
13. Who is Orlick? How can you tell that he doesn't like Pip or Pip's sister?
14. What happens to Pip's sister? Why does Pip worry that he might be a suspect in the crime?
15. What is Biddy like? What does she think of Pip's plan to become a gentleman?
16. Why does the "strange gentleman" request a private conference with Pip?
17. As Pip prepares for his journey, how do the attitudes of Mr. Trabb and Mr. Pumblechook change? Why?