Beatriz Thames

1-29-2010

Inner-Outer Circle Two-Column Notes: *Great Expectations*

Assertion & Support

1. Abusive parenting greatly influences a child’s character, but doesn’t always lead to an abusive person if they are also shown love and compassion.

* Miss Havisham has given Estella a luxurious lifestyle, and shows her some admiration for her beauty, but her upbringing through isolation and teaching her cruelty has made her very proud like Miss Havisham and her father. Pip describes that Estella’s moods “were so many and so contradictory of one another” and Miss Havisham would “embrace her with lavish fondness, murmuring something in her ear that sounded like , ‘Break their hearts’”(Dickens 94).
* Although Joe had an abusive father who drank and would beat his wife, his mother was very kind to him, and Joe always treats Mrs. Joe with love and respect.
* Pip state’s “My sister’s bringing up had made [him] sensitive” and that “there is nothing so finely perceived and finely felt as injustice” and he is “morally timid”(Dickens 61).

injustice or learning from your abusive guardian’s mistakes.

1. The power of blind love can be shown through both Pip’s and Miss Havisham’s experiences but it is not impossible to overcome. It just may take time.

* Pip is so impressed by Estella’s beauty and her haughty character that he admits he wanted to “be a gentleman on her account” (Dickens 129).
* When Biddy tells him that she was not worth gaining over he says it’s “Exactly what [he] himself had thought many times” but how could he “avoid that wonderful inconsistency into which the best and wisest of men fall everyday?” (Dickens 129).
* Miss Havisham wasted a lot of money and time on a man she had fallen for and continues to waste away the rest of her life on his account.
* After one good heart to heart discussion with Biddy, Pip already begins to love Biddy more as a person.

1. Money and social status does not bring happiness as shown by Miss Havisham. If you have someone in your life that can show you love and compassion (like Joe to Pip) then you can be relatively happy.

* Miss Havisham lives in Satis house or “Enough House” which means that whoever lives in it should feel satisfied since they have everything.
* When a relative comments on how well Miss Havisham looks she states “I do not! I am yellow skin and bone.” (Dickens 84)
* Miss Havisham admits that her heart is broken, that she hasn’t seen the sun since Pip was born, and that she and the house have worn away together since her wedding day.
* When Pip writes a letter to Joe he talks about what fun they will have when he is apprenticed to him and they always consider each other best friends.
* Pip states that he “loved Joe-perhaps for no better reason in those early days than because the dear fellow let [Pip] love him” (Dickens 40).

1. Pip’s always searching for self improvement both morally and in his position in society. He cannot let the advancement of status interfere with his conscience and morals.

* Pip comes up with a plan to get an education as a “step [he] could take towards making [himself] uncommon” (Dickens 71).
* When Pip confesses to Joe that he is miserable with his status a common boy and he wants to improve, Joe advises pip as a true friend that “you can’t get to be uncommon through going straight, you’ll never get to do it through going crooked” (Dickens 70)
* Pip tells Biddy that he wishes she could “put [him] right” (Dickens 129)

1. Growing up is a difficult time for youths to establish whether it is good to be like or different from your guardians. Two different cases are shown from Pip and Estella.

* Pip describes that Estella’s moods “were so many and so contradictory of one another” and Miss Havisham would “embrace her with lavish fondness, murmuring something in her ear that sounded like , ‘Break their hearts’”(Dickens 94).
* Pip had once liked Joe’s trade and admired his integrity, but when he meets Estella, he looks down upon himself and what he used to look up to. Now he assures himself that he won’t like Joe’s trade and that Joe and himself are ignorant, and he’s embarrassed with Joe even though he loves him.

1. Joe is aware that he isn’t bright but he’s okay with it as long as he acts with integrity. Joe may not be well educated but he does have some simple wisdom which takes Pip a long time to understand.

* Joe tells Pip he doesn’t rise against Mrs. Joe because she is a master mind and he “ain’t a master-mind” (Dickens 48).
* Joe’s afraid of making the same mistake as his father made of mistreating his wife, so he always treats Mrs. Joe fairly.
* Joe tells Pip to tell no more lies and “live well and die happy”(Dickens 70).

1. Too much pride in yourself leaves people with a bad impression of you.

* When Mr. Pocket tries to advise Miss Havisham that she was doing too much for her fiancé, she was “too haughty and too much in love” (Dickens 179) to take heed of the warning.
* Estella is disliked by Herbert Pocket for being so “hard and haughty and capricious to the last degree” (Dickens 175).
* Pip claims that Biddy is jealous of Pip for his fortune and she is left a little hurt that he has the heart to think such a thing.
* Drummle’s bad impression on Pip is his bad attitude in being proud and niggardly.

1. Ironic how they always told Pip to be grateful to those who brought you up by hand. He ends up very unhappy with his past, what he has, with himself, and is always expecting better for himself.

* When Joe is commenting on how Pip was lucky to have suddenly fallen into the fortune of becoming a gentleman, Pip stats that he would “have liked him to have betrayed his emotion, or to have said, ‘It does you credit, Pip,’”(Dickens 148)
* Throughout Pip’s childhood, he was always pestered by his sister and Mr. Pumblechook to be grateful to those who brought him up by hand and be grateful overall.

1. Many frauds are found throughout the novel and Pip must learn how to find truly good people and others who are not what they seem and how not to become a fraud himself.

* Uncle Pumblechook was always very unpleasant to Pip but acts as if they are best friends when Pip gets hold of handsome property. Pip says he can “remember feeling convinced that [he] had much mistaken him and that he was a sensible practical goodhearted prime fellow” (Dickens 155).
* Miss Havisham’s relatives are all humbugs who are trying to get a share of her inheritance when she dies.
* Mrs. Joe only acts nice when guests visit their household.
* “A change passed over Mr.Trabbs”(Dickens 151) as soon as he hears that Pip now possesses money.
* Pip tells Joe that he wished to walk alone because of his sense of “contrast there would be between [him] and Joe” (Dickens 159)