

In *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, Pip changes his perspective of criminality because he is faced with the realization that Magwitch and the other convict are simply victims of society and their circumstances. Following Pip's encounter with the escaped convict, he notices a beacon, and a gibbet with some chains hanging to it which "had once held a pirate" (Dickens 7). Pip recalls that the "man was limping on towards this latter, as if he were the pirate come to life, and come down, and going back to hook himself up again" (Dickens 7). He sees the convict returning to the mud and the marshes that he has come from. Pip describes the day of his encounter with the convict as his first impression of things. In this moment, he begins to develop a growing fear of the people and the society that raised him. Pip eventually comes to the realization that his expectation of becoming a gentleman and raising his social class is disadvantaged by his association with criminality, which he relates to the dull marshes. Pip understands that he has been brought up to believe that he is inadequate, and that his sister and Joe are preventing him from freeing himself from crime and fulfilling his great expectations. Pip has been raised by hand to believe that the treatment of criminals by the courts is entirely just. However, he discovers that the solution to crime is generosity, when he receives "two fat sweltering one pound notes" from Magwitch as an expression of gratitude for the food that Pip gave him. Pip sees that his sense of shame is merely a result of his societal conditioning to believe that his inner sense of morality is incorrect. He sees that crime is caused by people who are forced into criminal behavior by their situations. Pip finally recognizes that he was drawn to Magwitch by their similarities. Pip is an orphan, and Magwitch is a convict. It is through his straying from the norm that Pip becomes aware of the truth.