Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: Great Expectations**

**Answer the following :**

1. **What was the narrator’s full name? Why does he call himself ‘Pip’?**

Ans: The narrator’s full name was Phillip Pirrip. When he was an infant, he could not pronounce his name clearly so he called himself Pip.

1. **According to the narrator, what was his family name? On what basis did he think so?**

Ans: According to the narrator, his family name was Pirrip. He made the conclusion based on what was written on his father’s tombstone and what he had heard from his sister Mrs Joe Gargery.

1. **What were the narrator’s thoughts about his parents looks derived from? Why?**

Ans: The narrator, Pip had never seen his parents and in those days photography did not exist so his thoughts about their looks were unreasonably derived from their tombstones.

1. **What were Pip’s ideas about his parent’s looks?**

Ans: The shape of the letters on the narrator’s father’s tombstone gave him an odd idea that he was square, stout and a dark man with curly black hair. From the character and turn of the inscription on the tombstone about his mother, he thought that she was freckled and sickly.

1. **Who is indebted to whom and for what?**

Ans: The narrator is indebted to the lozenges next to the graves of his five brothers for a belief he religiously entertained that his brothers were all born on their backs with their hands in their trousers-pockets and had not taken them out in this state of existence.

1. **What does ‘lozenges’ refer to? What do they signify? Where were they arranged?**

Ans: The ‘lozenges’ refer to the five little stones which were about a foot and a half long. These stones signify graves of small children. They were arranged in a neat row beside the graves of Pip’s brothers.

1. **How many siblings did the narrator have? How many were alive and how many were dead?**

Ans: The narrator had six siblings – five brothers and a sister. The five brothers were dead but his sister was alive.

1. **What did Pip think of his five little brothers?**

Ans: Pip thought that his five little brothers had died very early as they had given up trying to get a living.

1. **How does Pip describe his native land?**

Ans: According to Pip his was a marsh country, down by the river, within twenty miles of the sea. The bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard and his parents and five little brothers were dead and had been buried there. The dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with dykes and mounds and gates with scattered cattle feeding on it was the marshes. Then there was a river which looked like a low leaden line whereas the distant sea was like a savage lair from which the wind was rushing.

1. **Who appeared in the churchyard while Pip was there? How did he threaten Pip? Who was he?**

Ans. A man with a terrible voice appeared in the churchyard suddenly while Pip was there. He told him to keep quiet or he would cut his throat. He was a prisoner who had escaped and was on the run.

1. **Describe the convict.**

Ans: The convict was a fearful man, in coarse grey with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat and with broken shoes and with an old rag tied round his head. He was completely wet and covered (smothered) with mud and was lamed by stones and cut by flints and stung by nettles and torn by briars. He limped and shivered and glared and growled.

1. **What questions did the convict ask Pip? How did he mishandle him?**

Ans: The convict asked Pip his name and also asked him to show where he lived. He turned Pip upside down and emptied his pockets. After sometime when he straightened Pip, he seated him on a high tombstone.

1. **What did the convict ask Pip about his mothe? What happened when Pip showed him where his mother was?**

Ans: The convict asked Pip where his mother was. As soon as Pip pointed out towards the tombstones, the convict ran a short distance and stopped and looked over his shoulder. He thought that Pip’s mother was around.

1. **What did the convict ask Pip to bring for him? What threats did he give to the listener if he did not fulfill his demands?**

Ans: The convict asked Pip to bring him a file and some food. He told Pip that if he didn’t fulfill his demands , he would have his liver heart and liver out. He explained to him that if he did not bring what he had asked for and if he ever say a word about him or even make a sign showing that he had met him, he would be killed.

1. **The man said that he was not alone. Who did he say was with him? What did he say about the other person?**

Ans : The man said that he was not alone and there was a young man with him who was hiding who was much more dangerous than he was. He further said that he was hearing their conversation and had a secret way of getting at a boy and his heart and liver. How much ever a boy tries to hide himself, the man would silently creep and tear him open.

1. **Describe in brief the way the convict was going away from the churchyard.**

Ans: While going away from the churchyard, the convict was hugging his own shuddering body in both his arms – clasping himself as if to hold himself together – and limped towards the low, church wall. He was avoiding the nettles and the brambles on the green mounds.

1. **How did the convict appear to Pip as he was going away?**

Ans: As the convict was going away he was trying to elude the nettles and the brambles on the way to avoid getting bruised by them. To Pip he appeared as if he were eluding the hands of the dead people, stretching up cautiously out of their graves, to get a twist upon his ankle and pull him in.

1. **What did Pip see on the edge of the river?**

Ans: On the edge of the river, Pip could faintly make out two things. One of these was the beacon by which the sailors steered and looked like an unhooped cask upon a pole. The other was a gibbet, with some chains hanging to which it had once held a pirate.

1. **In the line ‘it gave me a terrible turn when I thought so’ what was Pip thinking? Who else according to Pip was thinking the same?**

Ans: When the convict was limping towards the gibbet, it appeared as if he were the pirate who had been hanged upon the gibbet and had come down and was now going back to hook himself up again. Pip saw the cattle lifting their heads to gaze after the convict. So Pip thought they also were thinking the same about the convict.

1. **What did Pip do at the end?**

Ans: At the end Pip looked all around for the horrible young man but could see no signs of him. But by then Pip was terribly frightened and ran home without stopping.