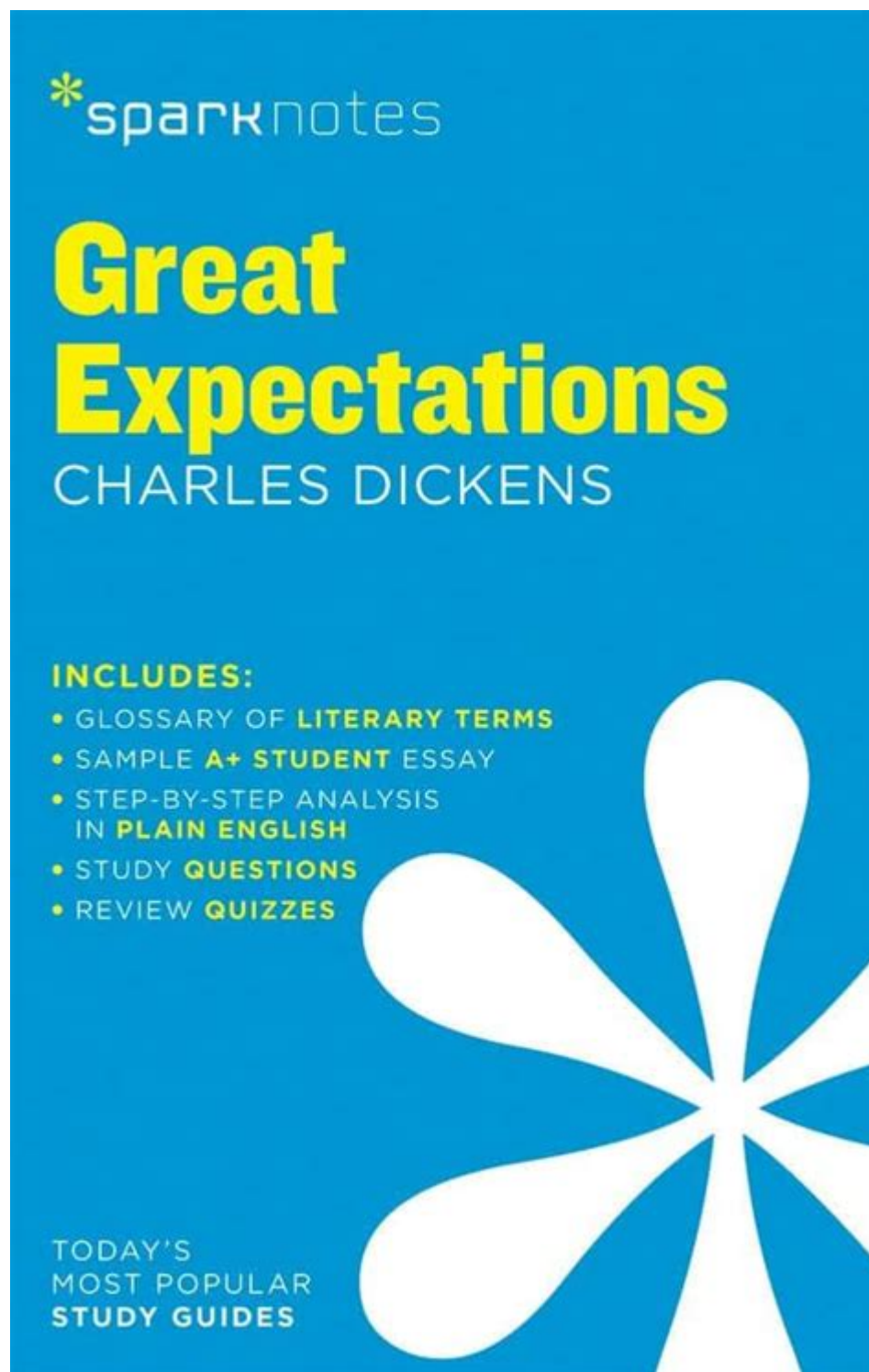


## Great Expectations Spark Notes



**Great Expectations SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide to Dickens' Masterpiece**

Are you facing a mountain of reading for your English class, or simply eager to delve into the complexities of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*? This comprehensive guide offers a concise yet insightful overview of *Great Expectations*, acting as your ultimate *Great Expectations* SparkNotes resource. We'll unravel the intricate plot, explore the key characters, and analyze the major themes that make this Victorian novel a timeless classic. Forget struggling through lengthy summaries – we've got you covered with a clear, digestible breakdown to help you understand and appreciate Dickens' masterpiece.

## **Pip's Journey: From Humble Beginnings to Grand Aspirations**

The novel centers on Pip, an orphan boy living a modest life in the marshes of Kent, England. His world is dramatically altered by two pivotal encounters: a terrifying encounter with an escaped convict and a chance meeting with the wealthy Miss Havisham. These events ignite in Pip a burning desire for social elevation, fundamentally shaping his "great expectations."

### **The Convict and Miss Havisham: Shaping Pip's Destiny**

The escaped convict, Magwitch, represents Pip's primal fear and dependence. His unexpected kindness towards Pip, offering him food and file, establishes a crucial, yet morally ambiguous, relationship that will later have profound consequences. Miss Havisham, a reclusive and eccentric woman obsessed with her failed wedding day, becomes Pip's unattainable ideal, fueling his ambition and influencing his perception of love and social status. Her influence subtly yet powerfully corrupts his sense of self-worth, tying his happiness to material possessions and social standing.

### **Estella: The Object of Pip's Obsession**

Estella, Miss Havisham's beautiful and emotionally detached adopted daughter, embodies Pip's idealized vision of a refined lady. His infatuation with her becomes an all-consuming passion, further driving his desire for wealth and social advancement. Estella's coldness and her deliberate cruelty serve as a constant reminder of Pip's perceived inferiority and the unattainable nature of his aspirations. Their relationship forms a significant portion of the novel's central conflict.

## **Major Themes Explored in *Great Expectations***

*Great Expectations* is not merely a coming-of-age story; it's a profound exploration of several complex themes:

## **The Nature of Class and Social Mobility**

Dickens masterfully depicts the rigid class structure of Victorian England and the challenges faced by individuals attempting to transcend their social standing. Pip's journey exemplifies the limitations and moral compromises inherent in such ambitions. The novel questions whether social advancement is truly worth the personal sacrifices and moral compromises often required.

## **The Illusion of Happiness and True Worth**

Pip's relentless pursuit of wealth and social status leads him down a path of disillusionment. He mistakenly believes that material possessions and social connections will bring him happiness. The novel reveals that true happiness stems not from external validation but from inner integrity and genuine relationships. The contrast between Pip's idealized expectations and the reality of his experiences underscores this crucial point.

## **Love, Loss, and Redemption**

The novel explores various forms of love, from the selfless affection of Biddy to the manipulative cruelty of Estella. Pip's relationships demonstrate the complexities of human connection and the potential for both love and betrayal. The novel's arc ultimately focuses on Pip's journey towards self-acceptance and redemption, highlighting the importance of forgiveness and understanding.

## **The Importance of Loyalty and Friendship**

Throughout his journey, Pip encounters various characters who demonstrate different levels of loyalty and friendship. His relationship with Joe Gargery, his loyal and kind brother-in-law, provides a stark contrast to his more superficial relationships driven by social ambition. Joe's unwavering support and genuine affection highlight the enduring value of true friendship.

## **Conclusion: Understanding Pip's Transformation**

Great Expectations is a powerful exploration of human ambition, social class, and the complexities of love and self-discovery. Pip's journey, though filled with hardship and disillusionment, ultimately leads him to a profound understanding of himself and the true meaning of happiness. This SparkNotes-style guide provides a foundation for deeper engagement with this timeless masterpiece. By understanding the major plot points, characters, and themes, you'll be well-

equipped to fully appreciate Dickens' literary genius.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the main conflict in *Great Expectations*? The main conflict revolves around Pip's relentless pursuit of social advancement and his misguided belief that wealth and status will bring him happiness. This clashes with his genuine relationships and his own moral compass.
2. Who is the benefactor of Pip's fortune? Pip's benefactor is the convict, Magwitch, a revelation that deeply challenges Pip's preconceived notions about wealth and social status.
3. What is the significance of Miss Havisham's character? Miss Havisham represents the destructive power of bitterness and the disillusionment that can result from unfulfilled love and misplaced expectations. She serves as a cautionary figure.
4. How does Pip change throughout the novel? Pip undergoes a significant transformation, moving from an innocent, naïve boy to a disillusioned young man, and finally to a mature individual who recognizes the true values of life.
5. What is the overall message or theme of *Great Expectations*? The novel emphasizes the importance of genuine human connection, self-acceptance, and the understanding that true happiness comes from within rather than external validation.

**great expectations spark notes: *Great Expectations*** Charles Dickens, 2010-05-01

**great expectations spark notes: *Great Expectations*** Charles Dickens, 2002 Get your A in gear They're today's most popular study guides-with everything you need to succeed in school. Written by Harvard students for students, since its inception SparkNotes(TM) has developed a loyal community of dedicated users and become a major education brand. Consumer demand has been so strong that the guides have expanded to over 150 titles. SparkNotes'(TM) motto is Smarter, Better, Faster because: They feature the most current ideas and themes, written by experts. They're easier to understand, because the same people who use them have also written them. The clear writing style and edited content enables students to read through the material quickly, saving valuable time. And with everything covered--context; plot overview; character lists; themes, motifs, and symbols; summary and analysis, key facts; study questions and essay topics; and reviews and resources--you don't have to go anywhere else

**great expectations spark notes: *Hard Times*** Charles Dickens, 1854

**great expectations spark notes: *The Fault in Our Stars*** John Green, 2012-01-10 The beloved, #1 global bestseller by John Green, author of *The Anthropocene Reviewed* and *Turtles All the Way Down* "John Green is one of the best writers alive." -E. Lockhart, #1 bestselling author of *We Were Liars* "The greatest romance story of this decade." -Entertainment Weekly #1 New York Times Bestseller • #1 Wall Street Journal Bestseller • #1 USA Today Bestseller • #1 International Bestseller Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. From John Green, #1 bestselling author of *The Anthropocene Reviewed* and *Turtles All the Way Down*, *The Fault in Our Stars* is insightful, bold, irreverent, and

raw. It brilliantly explores the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

**great expectations spark notes: Lord of the Flies** William Golding, 2012-09-20 A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, so their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most celebrated and widely read of modern classics. Now fully revised and updated, this educational edition includes chapter summaries, comprehension questions, discussion points, classroom activities, a biographical profile of Golding, historical context relevant to the novel and an essay on *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding entitled 'Fable'. Aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, it also includes a section on literary theory for advanced or A-level students. The educational edition encourages original and independent thinking while guiding the student through the text - ideal for use in the classroom and at home.

**great expectations spark notes: The Great Gatsby** F Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-01-13 Set in the 1920's Jazz Age on Long Island, *The Great Gatsby* chronicles narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with the mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, the beautiful Daisy Buchanan. First published in 1925, the book has enthralled generations of readers and is considered one of the greatest American novels.

**great expectations spark notes: Penguin Readers Level 4: The Boy in Striped Pyjamas (ELT Graded Reader)** John Boyne, 2020-11-05 Penguin Readers is an ELT graded reader series. Please note that the eBook edition does NOT include access to the audio edition and digital book. Written for learners of English as a foreign language, each title includes carefully adapted text, new illustrations and language learning exercises. Titles include popular classics, exciting contemporary fiction, and thought-provoking non-fiction, introducing language learners to bestselling authors and compelling content. The eight levels of Penguin Readers follow the Common European Framework of Reference for language learning (CEFR). Exercises at the back of each Reader help language learners to practise grammar, vocabulary, and key exam skills. Before, during and after-reading questions test readers' story comprehension and develop vocabulary. *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas*, a Level 4 Reader, is A2+ in the CEFR framework. The text is made up of sentences with up to three clauses, introducing more complex uses of present perfect simple, passives, phrasal verbs and simple relative clauses. It is well supported by illustrations, which appear regularly. One day, Bruno's father gets a new job, and the family have to move from Berlin, Germany, to a new place. There is a strange camp at the end of the garden. Bruno is very unhappy and bored until he meets Shmuel. The two boys become very good friends. But why is Shmuel in the camp? And why is he wearing striped pyjamas? Visit the Penguin Readers website Register to access online resources including tests, worksheets and answer keys. Exclusively with the print edition, readers can unlock a digital book and audio edition (not available with the eBook).

**great expectations spark notes: Great Expectations; Volume 2** Charles Dickens, 2023-07-18 This classic novel follows the life of Pip, an orphan who rises from humble beginnings to become a gentleman. Along the way he encounters a colorful cast of characters, including the eccentric Miss Havisham, the enigmatic Estella, and the terrifying Abel Magwitch. Dickens' vivid descriptions of Victorian London, his masterful characterizations, and his hauntingly beautiful prose make this one of the iconic works of English literature. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**great expectations spark notes: A Tale of Two Cities Illustrated by (Hablot Knight Browne (Phiz))** Charles Dickens, 2021-04-11 A Tale of Two Cities (1859) is the second historical novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. It depicts the plight of the French proletariat under the brutal oppression of the French aristocracy in the years leading up to the revolution, and the corresponding savage brutality demonstrated by the revolutionaries toward the former aristocrats in the early years of the revolution. It follows the lives of several protagonists through these events, most notably Charles Darnay, a French once-aristocrat who falls victim to the indiscriminate wrath of the revolution despite his virtuous nature, and Sydney Carton, a dissipated English barrister who endeavours to redeem his ill-spent life out of love for Darnay's wife, Lucie Manette.

**great expectations spark notes: Mrs. Dalloway** Virginia Woolf, 2023-12-16 Mrs Dalloway, Virginia Woolf's fourth novel, offers the reader an impression of a single June day in London in 1923. Clarissa Dalloway, the wife of a Conservative member of parliament, is preparing to give an evening party, while the shell-shocked Septimus Warren Smith hears the birds in Regent's Park chattering in Greek. There seems to be nothing, except perhaps London, to link Clarissa and Septimus. She is middle-aged and prosperous, with a sheltered happy life behind her; Smith is young, poor, and driven to hatred of himself and the whole human race. Yet both share a terror of existence, and sense the pull of death. The world of Mrs Dalloway is evoked in Woolf's famous stream of consciousness style, in a lyrical and haunting language which has made this, from its publication in 1925, one of her most popular novels.

**great expectations spark notes: Kindred** Octavia E. Butler, 2004-02-01 From the New York Times bestselling author of Parable of the Sower and MacArthur "Genius" Grant, Nebula, and Hugo award winner The visionary time-travel classic whose Black female hero is pulled through time to face the horrors of American slavery and explores the impacts of racism, sexism, and white supremacy then and now. "I lost an arm on my last trip home. My left arm." Dana's torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner's plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present. Blazing the trail for neo-slavery narratives like Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad and Ta-Nehisi Coates's The Water Dancer, Butler takes one of speculative fiction's oldest tropes and infuses it with lasting depth and power. Dana not only experiences the cruelties of slavery on her skin but also grimly learns to accept it as a condition of her own existence in the present. "Where stories about American slavery are often gratuitous, reducing its horror to explicit violence and brutality, Kindred is controlled and precise" (New York Times). "Reading Octavia Butler taught me to dream big, and I think it's absolutely necessary that everybody have that freedom and that willingness to dream." —N. K. Jemisin Developed for television by writer/executive producer Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (Watchmen), executive producers also include Joe Weisberg and Joel Fields (The Americans, The Patient), and Darren Aronofsky (The Whale). Janicza Bravo (Zola) is director and an executive producer of the pilot. Kindred stars Mallori Johnson, Micah Stock, Ryan Kwanten, and Gayle Rankin.

**great expectations spark notes: The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (National Book Award Winner)** Sherman Alexie, 2012-01-10 A New York Times bestseller—over one million copies sold! A National Book Award winner A Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winner Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one

Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. With a forward by Markus Zusak, interviews with Sherman Alexie and Ellen Forney, and black-and-white interior art throughout, this edition is perfect for fans and collectors alike.

**great expectations spark notes: Looking for Alaska Deluxe Edition** John Green, 2015-01-13 A gorgeous collector's edition of the critically acclaimed debut novel by John Green, #1 bestselling author of *Turtles All the Way Down* and *The Fault in Our Stars* A perfect gift for every fan, this deluxe hardcover features a stunning special edition jacket and 50 pages of all-new exclusive content, including: - An introduction by John Green - Extensive Q&A: John Green answers readers' most frequently asked questions - Deleted scenes from the original manuscript □ Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award □ A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist □ A New York Times Bestseller • A USA Today Bestseller □ NPR's Top Ten Best-Ever Teen Novels □ TIME magazine's 100 Best Young Adult Novels of All Time □ A PBS Great American Read Selection NOW A HULU ORIGINAL SERIES! Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words—and tired of his safe life at home. He leaves for boarding school to seek what the dying poet Francois Rabelais called the Great Perhaps." Much awaits Miles at Culver Creek, including Alaska Young, who will pull Miles into her labyrinth and catapult him into the Great Perhaps. *Looking for Alaska* brilliantly chronicles the indelible impact one life can have on another. A modern classic, this stunning debut marked #1 bestselling author John Green's arrival as a groundbreaking new voice in contemporary fiction.

**great expectations spark notes: The House on Mango Street** Sandra Cisneros, 2013-04-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A coming-of-age classic about a young girl growing up in Chicago • Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world—from the winner of the 2019 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. "Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage...and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one." —The New York Times Book Review *The House on Mango Street* is one of the most cherished novels of the last fifty years. Readers from all walks of life have fallen for the voice of Esperanza Cordero, growing up in Chicago and inventing for herself who and what she will become. "In English my name means hope," she says. "In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous—Cisneros's masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery and one of the greatest neighborhood novels of all time. Like Sinclair Lewis's *Main Street* or Toni Morrison's *Sula*, it makes a world through people and their voices, and it does so in language that is poetic and direct. This gorgeous coming-of-age novel is a celebration of the power of telling one's story and of being proud of where you're from.

**great expectations spark notes: Bleak House** Charles Dickens, 2015-12-06 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

**great expectations spark notes: Regeneration** Pat Barker, 2008-05-01 A Hay Festival and The Poole VOTE 100 BOOKS for Women Selection The modern classic of contemporary war fiction - a Man Booker Prize-nominated examination of World War I and its deep legacy of human traumas. 'A brilliant novel. Intense and subtle' Peter Kemp, Sunday Times Craiglockhart War Hospital, Scotland, 1917, and army psychiatrist William Rivers is treating shell-shocked soldiers. Under his care are the

poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen, as well as mute Billy Prior, who is only able to communicate by means of pencil and paper. Rivers's job is to make the men in his charge healthy enough to fight. Yet the closer he gets to mending his patients' minds the harder becomes every decision to send them back to the horrors of the front. Pat Barker's *Regeneration* is the classic exploration of how the traumas of war brutalised a generation of young men. This is the first novel in Pat Barker's Man Booker Prize-winning *Regeneration Trilogy*: I: *Regeneration* II: *The Eye in the Door* III: *The Ghost Road* 'A vivid evocation of the agony of the First World War and a multi-layered exploration of all wars. A fine anthem for doomed youth' *Time Out* 'A novel of tremendous power' Margaret Forster 'Unforgettable' *Sunday Telegraph* 'One of the strongest and most interesting novelists of her generation' *Guardian*

**great expectations spark notes:** *Exit West* Mohsin Hamid, 2017-03-07 FINALIST FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE & WINNER OF THE L.A. TIMES BOOK PRIZE FOR FICTION and THE ASPEN WORDS LITERARY PRIZE "It was as if Hamid knew what was going to happen to America and the world, and gave us a road map to our future... At once terrifying and ... oddly hopeful." —Ayelet Waldman, *The New York Times Book Review* "Moving, audacious, and indelibly human." —*Entertainment Weekly*, "A" rating *The New York Times* bestselling novel: an astonishingly visionary love story that imagines the forces that drive ordinary people from their homes into the uncertain embrace of new lands, from the author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and the forthcoming *The Last White Man*. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. . . . *Exit West* follows these remarkable characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.

**great expectations spark notes:** *Mister Pip* Lloyd Jones, 2011-04-04 Lloyd Jones' new novel is set mainly in a small village on Bougainville, a country torn apart by civil war. Matilda attends the school set up by Mr Watts, the only white man on the island. By his own admission he's not much of a teacher and proceeds to educate the children by reading them *Great Expectations*. Matilda falls in love with the novel, strongly identifying with Pip. The promise of the next chapter is what keeps her going; Pip's story protects her from the horror of what is happening around her - helicopters menacing the skies above the village and rebel raids on the ground. When the rebels visit the village searching for any remaining men to join their cause, they discover the name Pip written in the sand and instigate a search for him. When Pip can't be found the soldiers destroy the book. Mr Watts then encourages the children to retell the story from their memories. Then when the rebels invade the village, the teacher tells them a story which lasts seven nights, about a boy named Pip, and a convict . . .

**great expectations spark notes:** *The Big Sleep* Raymond Chandler, 2022-08-16 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

**great expectations spark notes:** *The Little Prince* Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 2021-08-31 *The Little Prince* and (French: and Le Petit Prince) is a and novella and by French aristocrat, writer, and aviator and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. It was first published in English and French in the US by and Reynal and Hitchcock and in April 1943, and



posthumously in France following the andnbsp;liberation of France andnbsp;as Saint-Exupéry's works had been banned by the andnbsp;Vichy Regime. The story follows a young prince who visits various planets in space, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. Despite its style as a children's book, andnbsp;The Little Prince andnbsp;makes observations about life, adults and human nature. The Little Prince andnbsp;became Saint-Exupéry's most successful work, selling an estimated 140 million copies worldwide, which makes it one of the andnbsp;best-selling andnbsp;andnbsp;most translated books andnbsp;ever published. andnbsp;It has been translated into 301 languages and dialects. andnbsp;The Little Prince andnbsp;has been adapted to numerous art forms and media, including audio recordings, radio plays, live stage, film, television, ballet, and opera.

**great expectations spark notes:** *The Remains of the Day* Kazuo Ishiguro, 2010-07-15 BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, here is “an intricate and dazzling novel” (The New York Times) about the perfect butler and his fading, insular world in post-World War II England. This is Kazuo Ishiguro's profoundly compelling portrait of a butler named Stevens. Stevens, at the end of three decades of service at Darlington Hall, spending a day on a country drive, embarks as well on a journey through the past in an effort to reassure himself that he has served humanity by serving the great gentleman, Lord Darlington. But lurking in his memory are doubts about the true nature of Lord Darlington's greatness, and much graver doubts about the nature of his own life.

**great expectations spark notes:** *The Joy Luck Club* Amy Tan, 2008-12-26 Discover Amy Tan's moving and poignant tale of immigrant Chinese mothers and their American-born daughters. 'The Joy Luck Club is an ambitious saga that's impossible to read without wanting to call your Mum' Stylist In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives - until their own inner crises reveal how much they've unknowingly inherited of their mothers' pasts. 'Pure enchantment' Mail on Sunday

**great expectations spark notes:** *Giants in the Earth: A Saga of the Prairie* O. E. Rølvaag, 2022-07-21 *Giants in the Earth* is a novel by Norwegian-American author Ole Edvard Rølvaag, telling a story of a Norwegian family who struggles to make a new life as pioneers in the Dakota territory. The novel follows the grim realities of pioneering and the gloomy fatalism of the Norse mind among the depictions of snow storms, locusts, poverty, hunger, loneliness, homesickness, the difficulty of fitting into a new culture, and the estrangement of immigrant children who grow up in a new land.

**great expectations spark notes:** *Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad, 2007-09 For many years *Heart of Darkness* has been considered a great novella, one of a few great short novels in the Western canon. Because it addresses directly the ambiguity of good and evil, when it was first published the novel foreshadowed many of the themes and stylistic devices that define modern literature. One of Conrad's finest stories, loosely based on the author's experience of rescuing a company agent from a remote station in the heart of the Congo, *Heart of Darkness* is set in an atmosphere of mystery and lurking danger, and tells of Marlow's perilous journey up the Congo River to relieve his employer's agent, the fabled and terrifying Mr. Kurtz. What Marlow sees on his journey horrifies and perplexes him, and what his encounter with Kurtz reveals calls into question all of his assumptions about civilization and human nature. Endlessly reinterpreted by critics and read in schools by countless students, the novel has been adapted numerous times for film-most famously *Apocalypse Now*-and shows Conrad at his finest, most intense, and most sophisticated. *Heart of Darkness* was originally published in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine in 1899 and published in book form in 1902. The present text derives from Doubleday's collected edition of Conrad's works, published in 1920-1921.

**great expectations spark notes:** *Love & Other Great Expectations* Becky Dean, 2023-06-13 An American girl embarks on a competitive scavenger hunt in England—and along the way, she meets

up with a bookish British boy who can't help her with the clues . . . but might make the trip take some unexpected turns. Britt Hanson has always preferred scoring goals on the soccer field to analyzing dusty old books. But when an injury ends her dream to play in college, she jumps at the chance to compete in a scavenger hunt in England that takes her to the locations of classic novels—the prize money would change her life! Once in the UK, she meets bookish and very British Luke Jackson. He can't actually help her with any of the clues (against the rules), but something about Luke compels her to invite him to join her. She wouldn't mind getting to know him—and listening to his accent. To win, Britt must outsmart three competitors who aren't afraid to play dirty while solving clues and traveling around the English countryside. Along the way, Britt learns that sometimes you have to follow the map and other times, you need to throw caution to the wind and see where the cobblestoned road leads you.

**great expectations spark notes:** To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee, 2014-07-08 Voted America's Best-Loved Novel in PBS's The Great American Read Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the deep South—and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred One of the most cherished stories of all time, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than forty million copies worldwide, served as the basis for an enormously popular motion picture, and was voted one of the best novels of the twentieth century by librarians across the country. A gripping, heart-wrenching, and wholly remarkable tale of coming-of-age in a South poisoned by virulent prejudice, it views a world of great beauty and savage inequities through the eyes of a young girl, as her father—a crusading local lawyer—risks everything to defend a black man unjustly accused of a terrible crime.

**great expectations spark notes:** *An Inspector Calls* John Boynton Priestley, 1972 The members of an eminently respectable British family reveal their true natures over the course of an evening in which they are subjected to a routine inquiry into the suicide of a young girl.

**great expectations spark notes:** The Good Soldier Ford Madox Ford, 2018-10-07 *The Good Soldier* A Tale of Passion by Ford Madox Ford At the fashionable German spa town Bad Nauheim, two wealthy, fin de siècle couples - one British, the other American - meet for their yearly assignation. As their story moves back and forth in time between 1902 and 1914, the fragile surface propriety of the pre - World War I society in which these four characters live is ruptured - revealing deceit, hatred, infidelity, and betrayal. *The Good Soldier* is Edward Ashburnham, who, as an adherent to the moral code of the English upper class, is nonetheless consumed by a passion for women younger than his wife - a stoic but fallible figure in what his American friend, John Dowell, calls the saddest story I ever heard.

**great expectations spark notes:** Things Fall Apart Chinua Achebe, 1994-09-01 "A true classic of world literature . . . A masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers in Nigeria, across Africa, and around the world." —Barack Obama "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." —Toni Morrison Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read *Things Fall Apart* is the first of three novels in Chinua Achebe's critically acclaimed African Trilogy. It is a classic narrative about Africa's cataclysmic encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, *Things Fall Apart* explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, *Things Fall Apart* provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities.

**great expectations spark notes:** *The Personal History of David Copperfield* Charles Dickens, 1868

**great expectations spark notes:** SparkNotes Brian Phillips, 2002

**great expectations spark notes:** *SparkNotes* Amanda Davis, 2002

**great expectations spark notes:** *Great Expectations, Charles Dickens* , 2008-06 Created by Harvard students for students everywhere, SparkNotes books contain complete plot summaries and analyses, key facts about the featured work, analysis of the major characters, suggested essay topics, themes, motifs, and symbols, and explanations of important quotations.

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**great expectations spark notes: Always On** Naomi S. Baron, 2010-03-03 In *Always On*, Naomi S. Baron reveals that online and mobile technologies--including instant messaging, cell phones, multitasking, Facebook, blogs, and wikis--are profoundly influencing how we read and write, speak and listen, but not in the ways we might suppose. Baron draws on a decade of research to provide an eye-opening look at language in an online and mobile world. She reveals for instance that email, IM, and text messaging have had surprisingly little impact on student writing. Electronic media has magnified the laid-back whatever attitude toward formal writing that young people everywhere have embraced, but it is not a cause of it. A more troubling trend, according to Baron, is the myriad ways in which we block incoming IMs, camouflage ourselves on Facebook, and use ring tones or caller ID to screen incoming calls on our mobile phones. Our ability to decide who to talk to, she argues, is likely to be among the most lasting influences that information technology has upon the ways we communicate with one another. Moreover, as more and more people are always on one technology or another--whether communicating, working, or just surfing the web or playing games--we have to ask what kind of people do we become, as individuals and as family members or friends, if the relationships we form must increasingly compete for our attention with digital media? Our 300-year-old written culture is on the verge of redefinition, Baron notes. It's up to us to determine how and when we use language technologies, and to weigh the personal and social benefits--and costs--of being always on. This engaging and lucidly-crafted book gives us the tools for taking on these challenges.

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