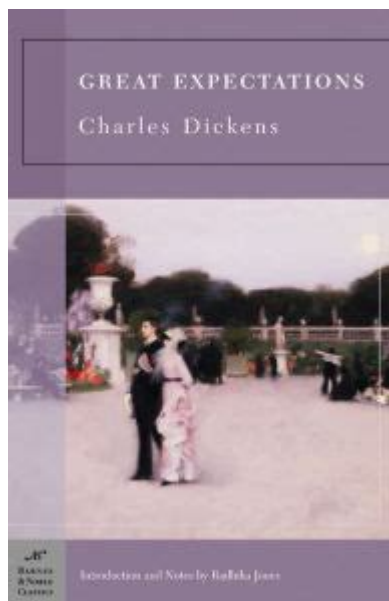


# [Sparknotes The Great Expectations](#)



## **SparkNotes The Great Expectations: Your Key to Unlocking Dickens' Masterpiece**

Are you staring down Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, feeling overwhelmed by its length and intricate plot? Don't despair! This comprehensive guide provides a thorough SparkNotes-style summary, character analysis, and thematic exploration of this classic novel, helping you navigate the twists and turns of Pip's journey to self-discovery. Whether you're a student tackling a literature assignment or a reader eager to understand this enduring masterpiece, this post will equip you with the tools you need to truly appreciate *Great Expectations*. We'll delve into the key plot points, examine the complex characters, and unearth the profound themes that resonate even today.

## **A SparkNotes Summary of Great Expectations**

*Great Expectations* follows the life of Pip, an orphan boy living in the marshes of Kent, England. His life takes a dramatic turn when he encounters an escaped convict and a wealthy, eccentric spinster named Miss Havisham. These encounters set in motion a series of events that shape Pip's ambitions and ultimately define his character.

### **Pip's Early Life and the Convict**

Pip's early chapters depict a stark, impoverished childhood. His interactions with the convict, Magwitch, instill a profound fear and sense of responsibility in young Pip. This early trauma forms the foundation of his later anxieties and desires. The mystery surrounding Magwitch's identity and his reappearance later in the novel drives much of the plot.

## **Miss Havisham and Estella**

Miss Havisham, a bitter and reclusive woman, lives in a decaying mansion, forever trapped in her wedding attire. Her adopted daughter, Estella, is beautiful and cold, captivating Pip and becoming the object of his obsessive desire. Miss Havisham uses Estella to inflict emotional pain, mirroring her own heartbreak. Pip's infatuation with Estella drives much of his actions and fuels his ambition for social climbing.

## **London and the Rise of Pip**

Pip's unexpected inheritance allows him to move to London, transforming him from a humble boy into a gentleman. He undergoes a period of significant social and personal change, experiencing both the allure and the disillusionment of high society. This transition is marked by his growing awareness of his own moral failings and his complicated relationship with the people in his life.

## **Unmasking the Benefactor**

The reveal of Pip's benefactor is a pivotal moment. The discovery forces Pip to confront his own values, prejudices, and the true meaning of loyalty and friendship. This revelation challenges his assumptions about social status and the nature of human connection.

## **Key Characters in Great Expectations**

### **Pip: The Protagonist**

Pip's journey is one of self-discovery and moral development. He evolves from a naive boy driven by ambition to a more mature and compassionate individual, though not without significant internal struggles. His character arc highlights the complexities of human nature and the transformative power of experience.

## **Estella: The Object of Desire**

Estella is a complex character, manipulated by Miss Havisham to inflict emotional pain. Her coldness and aloofness mask a deep vulnerability, and her eventual transformation suggests a capacity for empathy.

## **Miss Havisham: The Bitter Spinster**

Miss Havisham's bitterness and reclusive nature stem from a past betrayal, highlighting the destructive power of unrequited love and the importance of forgiveness.

## **Magwitch: The Mysterious Benefactor**

Magwitch's role is multifaceted. He represents both the darker and lighter sides of humanity. His kindness toward Pip contrasts sharply with his criminal past, offering a poignant exploration of redemption.

## **Exploring the Themes of Great Expectations**

Great Expectations explores several important themes:

### **Ambition and Social Class**

Dickens masterfully depicts the societal pressures and class divisions of Victorian England. Pip's relentless pursuit of social status reveals the pitfalls of ambition and the importance of self-acceptance.

### **Love and Loss**

The novel explores various forms of love and loss, from the passionate but ultimately destructive love between Pip and Estella to the unconditional affection between Pip and his sister.

# Redemption and Forgiveness

Magwitch's story offers a powerful exploration of redemption, while Miss Havisham's tale highlights the destructive consequences of clinging to bitterness and resentment. The novel suggests the importance of forgiveness, both for oneself and for others.

# Social Mobility and Morality

The stark contrast between Pip's humble beginnings and his aspirations to climb the social ladder provides a critical examination of social mobility and its ethical implications. Dickens questions the values of Victorian society and the cost of social advancement.

# Conclusion

Great Expectations remains a timeless classic due to its exploration of universal themes. Through Pip's journey, Dickens unveils the complexities of human nature, challenging readers to examine their own values and aspirations. This SparkNotes-style overview serves as a valuable tool for understanding the novel's intricate plot, memorable characters, and enduring themes, making it accessible to both seasoned readers and those new to Dickens' masterful storytelling.

# FAQs

1. What is the central conflict in Great Expectations? The central conflict is Pip's internal struggle with ambition, social class, and his relationships with Estella and Magwitch. Externally, the mystery surrounding his benefactor and his changing social standing create conflict.
2. What is the significance of Miss Havisham's stopped clock? The stopped clock symbolizes the halt in her life caused by her heartbreak and her refusal to move on from her past trauma.
3. How does Pip change throughout the novel? Pip undergoes a significant transformation, evolving from a naive, ambitious boy to a more mature and self-aware man who learns the true meaning of friendship, loyalty, and love.
4. What is the importance of the marshes setting? The marshes represent Pip's humble beginnings and the simplicity of his childhood, contrasting sharply with the complexities of his life in London.
5. What is the overall message or moral of the story? The novel suggests that true happiness and fulfillment come not from material wealth or social status but from genuine human connections and

self-acceptance. It emphasizes the importance of humility, compassion, and forgiveness.

**sparknotes the great expectations: Great Expectations** Charles Dickens, 2010-05-01

**sparknotes the great expectations: *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

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: Love & Other Great Expectations** Becky Dean, 2022-06-14 An American girl embarks on a competitive scavenger hunt in England—and along the way, 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: *Hard Times*** Charles Dickens, 1854

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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 . . .

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: Heart of Darkness** ,

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *Giants in the Earth* Ole Edvart Rølvaag, 1927 A narrative of pioneer hardship and heroism on the boundless Dakota prairie, as a Norwegian-American immigrant family passed through Ellis Island and worked to eke out a living in America's midwest.

**sparknotes the great expectations: I Am the Cheese** Robert Cormier, 2013-03-19 Before there was Lois Lowry's *The Giver* or M. T. Anderson's *Feed*, there was Robert Cormier's *I Am the Cheese*, a subversive classic that broke new ground for YA literature. A boy's search for his father becomes a desperate journey to unlock a secret past. But the past must not be remembered if the boy is to survive. As he searches for the truth that hovers at the edge of his mind, the boy—and readers—arrive at a shattering conclusion. "An absorbing, even brilliant job. The book is assembled in mosaic fashion: a tiny chip here, a chip there. . . . Everything is related to something else; everything builds and builds to a fearsome climax. . . . [Cormier] has the knack of making horror out of the ordinary, as the masters of suspense know how to do."—The New York Times Book Review "A horrifying tale of government corruption, espionage, and counter espionage told by an innocent young victim. . . . The buildup of suspense is terrific."—School Library Journal, starred review An ALA Notable Children's Book A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Horn Book Fanfare A Library of Congress Children's Book of the Year A Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award Nominee

**sparknotes the great expectations: Speak** Laurie Halse Anderson, 2011-05-10 The groundbreaking National Book Award Finalist and Michael L. Printz Honor Book with more than 3.5 million copies sold, *Speak* is a bestselling modern classic about consent, healing, and finding your voice. *Speak* up for yourself—we want to know what you have to say. From the first moment of her freshman year at Merryweather High, Melinda knows this is a big lie, part of the nonsense of high school. She is friendless, an outcast, because she busted an end-of-summer party by calling the cops. Now nobody will talk to her, let alone listen to her. As time passes, Melinda becomes increasingly isolated and practically stops talking altogether. Only her art class offers any solace, and it is through her work on an art project that she is finally able to face what really happened at that terrible party: she was raped by an upperclassman, a guy who still attends Merryweather and is still a threat to her. Her healing process has just begun when she has another violent encounter with him. But this time Melinda fights back—and refuses to be silent. From Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award laureate Laurie Halse Anderson comes the extraordinary landmark novel that has spoken to millions of readers. Powerful and utterly unforgettable, *Speak* has been translated into 35 languages, was the basis for the major motion picture starring Kristen Stewart, and is now a stunning graphic novel adapted by Laurie Halse Anderson herself, with artwork from Eisner-Award winner Emily Carroll. Awards and Accolades for *Speak*: A New York Times Bestseller A National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature A Michael L. Printz Honor Book An Edgar Allan Poe Award Finalist A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist A TIME Magazine Best YA Book of All Time A Cosmopolitan Magazine Best YA Books Everyone Should Read, Regardless of Age

**sparknotes the great expectations:** *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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: My Antonia** Willa Cather, 2024-01-02 A haunting tribute to the heroic pioneers who shaped the American Midwest This powerful novel by Willa Cather is considered to be one of her finest works and placed Cather in the forefront of women novelists. It tells the stories of several immigrant families who start new lives in America in rural Nebraska. This powerful tribute to the quiet heroism of those whose struggles and triumphs shaped the American Midwest highlights the role of women pioneers, in particular. Written in the style of a memoir penned by Antonia's tutor and friend, the book depicts one of the most memorable heroines in American literature, the spirited eldest daughter of a Czech immigrant family, whose calm, quite strength and robust spirit helped her survive the hardships and loneliness of life on the Nebraska prairie. The two form an enduring bond and through his chronicle, we watch Antonia shape the land while dealing with poverty, treachery, and tragedy. "No romantic novel ever written in America...is one half so beautiful as My Antonia." -H. L. Mencken Willa Cather (1873-1947) was an American writer best known for her novels of the Plains and for *One of Ours*, a novel set in World War I, for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923. She was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1943 and received the gold medal for fiction from the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1944, an award given once a decade for an author's total accomplishments. By the time of her death she had written twelve novels, five books of short stories, and a collection of poetry.

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

**sparknotes the great expectations: Nineteen eighty-four** George Orwell, 2022-11-22 This is a dystopian social science fiction novel and morality tale. The novel is set in the year 1984, a

fictional future in which most of the world has been destroyed by unending war, constant government monitoring, historical revisionism, and propaganda. The totalitarian superstate Oceania, ruled by the Party and known as Airstrip One, now includes Great Britain as a province. The Party uses the Thought Police to repress individuality and critical thought. Big Brother, the tyrannical ruler of Oceania, enjoys a strong personality cult that was created by the party's overzealous brainwashing methods. Winston Smith, the main character, is a hard-working and skilled member of the Ministry of Truth's Outer Party who secretly despises the Party and harbors rebellious fantasies.

**sparknotes the great expectations:** Lucy Jamaica Kincaid, 2002-09-04 The coming-of-age story of one of Jamaica Kincaid's most admired creations--available now in an e-book edition. Lucy, a teenage girl from the West Indies, comes to America to work as an au pair for a wealthy couple. She begins to notice cracks in their beautiful façade at the same time that the mysteries of own sexuality begin to unravel. Jamaica Kincaid has created a startling new heroine who is destined to win a place of honor in contemporary fiction.

**sparknotes the great expectations: The Joy Luck Club** Amy Tan, 2006-09-21 "The Joy Luck Club is one of my favorite books. From the moment I first started reading it, I knew it was going to be incredible. For me, it was one of those once-in-a-lifetime reading experiences that you cherish forever. It inspired me as a writer and still remains hugely inspirational." —Kevin Kwan, author of *Crazy Rich Asians* Amy Tan's beloved, New York Times bestselling tale of mothers and daughters, now the focus of a new documentary *Amy Tan: Unintended Memoir* on Netflix Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's saying the stories. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. To despair was to wish back for something already lost. Or to prolong what was already unbearable. Forty years later the stories and history continue. With wit and sensitivity, Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters. As each woman reveals her secrets, trying to unravel the truth about her life, the strings become more tangled, more entwined. Mothers boast or despair over daughters, and daughters roll their eyes even as they feel the inextricable tightening of their matriarchal ties. Tan is an astute storyteller, enticing readers to immerse themselves into these lives of complexity and mystery.

**sparknotes the great expectations: A Lesson Before Dying** Ernest J. Gaines, 2004-01-20 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • A deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to visit a Black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. An instant classic. —Chicago Tribune A "majestic, moving novel...an instant classic, a book that will be read, discussed and taught beyond the rest of our lives (Chicago Tribune), from the critically acclaimed author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. *A Lesson Before Dying* reconfirms Ernest J. Gaines's position as an important American writer. —Boston Globe Enormously moving.... Gaines unerringly evokes the place and time about which he writes. —Los Angeles Times "A quietly moving novel [that] takes us back to a place we've been before to impart a lesson for living." —San Francisco Chronicle

**sparknotes the great expectations: The Little Prince** Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 2021-08-31 *The Little Prince* and (French: *Le Petit Prince*) is a novella by French aristocrat, writer, and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. It was first published in English and French in the US by Reynal and Hitchcock in April 1943, and posthumously in France following the liberation of France as Saint-Exupéry's works had been banned by the 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, *The Little Prince* makes observations about life, adults and human nature. *The Little Prince* became Saint-Exupéry's most successful work, selling an estimated 140 million copies worldwide, which makes it one of the and

nbsp;best-selling and nbsp;and and nbsp;most translated books and nbsp;ever published. and nbsp;It has been translated into 301 languages and dialects. and nbsp;The Little Prince and nbsp;has been adapted to numerous art forms and media, including audio recordings, radio plays, live stage, film, television, ballet, and opera.

**sparknotes the great expectations: 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.

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