

Great Expectations

Charles Dickens

How much of what Pip 'knows' in the opening actually comes from evidence?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Pip invents his family from gravestones
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter I
START	My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip
END	The small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.
PASSAGE ID	sec-ge-01

THE MOVE

Separate evidence from imaginative projection

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Pip has almost no direct memory of his parents, yet he constructs vivid ideas about them from the shapes and lettering on their gravestones. The opening makes it easy to separate the small amount of evidence Pip actually has from the imaginative story he builds on top of it.

MARK

Put E beside every fact Pip can directly observe on the gravestones. Put I beside every conclusion he imagines about what his parents or brothers looked like. Draw a line from each inference back to the detail that prompted it.

NOTICE

- Which things about Pip's family are facts available to him?
- Which conclusions are imaginative projections rather than evidence?
- Why does Dickens begin Pip's story by showing him invent knowledge from incomplete evidence?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How much of what Pip 'knows' in the opening actually comes from evidence? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How much of what Pip 'knows' in the opening actually comes from evidence? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Very little of Pip's 'knowledge' is direct evidence. He can read names, dates, shapes, and gravestones, but his images of his parents and brothers are imaginative constructions built from those sparse clues.
EVIDENCE	Separate one observable grave detail from one conclusion Pip invents about appearance or character. Strong answers trace the inference back to the clue that prompted it.
WATCH FOR	Do not mock Pip for imagining. The lesson is about distinguishing evidence from projection, not about proving imagination worthless.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip
END ANCHOR	The small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Put E beside every fact Pip can directly observe on the gravestones. Put I beside every conclusion he imagines about what his parents or brothers looked like. Draw a line from each inference back to the detail that prompted it.
2. NOTICE - Which things about Pip's family are facts available to him? Which conclusions are imaginative projections rather than evidence? Why does Dickens begin Pip's story by showing him invent knowledge from incomplete evidence?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How much of what Pip 'knows' in the opening actually comes from evidence?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.