

Literacy World  
Comets
Stage 4

**Title:** Great Expectations  
**Author:** Charles Dickens, retold by William Bedford  
**Year:** 6  
**Genre:** Classic Novel

**Summary**  
Pip is a seven-year-old orphan, cared for by his harsh sister and her kindly husband, Joe Gargery, the blacksmith. His life takes an unexpected turn when Pip comes across a desperate convict, Magwitch, and steals food for him. Magwitch is recaptured, but he never forgets Pip. A few years later, Pip is invited to visit Miss Havisham's house. This peculiar old lady was jilted at the altar, but still wears her wedding dress and sits among the ruins of her wedding feast. Here Pip meets Estella, a beautiful girl who has been trained by Miss Havisham to humiliate men as a kind of revenge.

When, several years later, Pip inherits a large sum of money from an anonymous benefactor, he assumes that the benefactor is Miss Havisham. Pip's only contact with his benefactor is through a solicitor, Jaggers. Pip moves to London leaving his old life behind, and enjoys his affluence. He barely keeps in touch with Joe, even after his wife (Pip's sister) dies, and continues to hope that Estella will love him one day.

Back in London, Pip receives an unexpected visit from a stranger who turns out to be his anonymous benefactor, Magwitch the convict. Magwitch was transported to Australia and has risked his life by returning to England to see Pip one last time. He is being pursued by a fellow convict, Compeyson, who tips off the police. Pip and Magwitch attempt to escape by boat but are captured. In the struggle, Compeyson drowns and Magwitch is sent to Newgate prison, where he dies soon afterwards.

Jaggers tells Pip that Compeyson was the suitor who abandoned Miss Havisham. Pip also learns that Estella has married an unpleasant man called Bentley Drummle. He sinks into an illness brought on by despair. He has squandered his fortune and has lost all hope for the future. Joe comes to London to look after Pip and tells him that Miss Havisham has died, leaving her money to Estella. Pip travels the world and on his return learns that Bentley Drummle has died in an accident. His way is clear to marry his childhood sweetheart, Estella.

**Primary Framework Objectives:**  
**To strand 7:** Appraise a text quickly, deciding on its value, quality or usefulness  
**To strand 7:** Understand underlying themes, issues and points of view  
**To strand 7:** Recognise rhetorical devices used to argue, persuade, mislead and sway the reader

## Literacy World Comets Stage 4: Great Expectations Guided Reading Card Framework Edition

By William Bedford

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### Reviews

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