Dickens uses this to show how people can be differently influenced by the same environment

Molly
- Her desire for revenge on Magwitch’s supposed lover caused her to become a violent murderess
- Her ‘powerful wrists’ symbolise how her vengefulness turned her into a murderer
  - Dickens uses this to exploit the power of revenge

Herbert
- ‘wonderfully hopeful’ with ‘a natural incapacity to do anything secretive or mean’
  - Shows Herbert’s kind nature (‘natural incapacity’) and alienates Herbert from bad behaviour
  - Contrasts with Drummle, who is ‘heavy, idle, proud, niggardly reserved...’
- Herbert’s humble but admirable expectations are based on saving enough money to invest in a business, which is presented to be an example of positive expectations by Dickens

Compeyson
- Theme of appearance and reality- Compeyson appears to love Miss H but in reality he is just using her for her money

Drummle
- ‘sulky fellow’ who is ‘heavy, idle, proud, niggardly reserved and suspicious’
  - The asyndectic listing of all of Drummle’s faults emphasises his bad character
- Comes from ‘rich people’
  - The use of ‘people’ instead of ‘family’ or ‘parents’ shows the alienation and the lack of familial love in Drummle’s wealthy family, suggesting Dickens’ view that money cannot make up for love
  - Drummle’s expectations is to live purely for his own comfort and pleasure without regard for others, which contrasts greatly with Herbert
  - Dickens makes it clear that, although society would view Drummle as the gentleman and Herbert as something less because he works for a living, it is Herbert who has the better characteristics of a gentle man