

Great Expectations Quotes: Settings and Literary Context

Settings

Marshes

- 'Just a long black horizontal line... the sky a row of angry red lines and dense black lines, intermixed' (Ch 1)
 - Colour symbolism of 'red' and 'black' connotes danger, death and anger
 - 'angry' personification of marshes makes them seem more threatening
 - Flatness of landscape suggests hostility
 - 'intermixed' suggests confusion and mysteriousness
 - Absence of hope- black and bleak
- 'The mists had all solemnly risen now' (Ch 19)
 - Creates mysterious effect and adds suspense; fear of the unknown
 - Pathetic fallacy- suggests unclear future path for Pip
- 'Once more, the mists were rising as I walked away' (Ch 35)
 - Parallel to the first time Pip left Joe for London and didn't come back
- 'Dark flat wilderness...intersected with the dykes and mounds and gates' (Ch 1 pg 3)
 - Syndectic listing makes marshes seem hostile- an ongoing and vast space

Forge

- Symbol of Joe and Biddy's humble expectations
- Contrast between when Biddy makes the place look actually welcoming ('white curtains fluttering in the wind') and when Mrs Joe fakes hostility at Christmas ('clean white curtains...little state parlour which was never uncovered at any other time...four little white poodles' listing of Mrs Joe's frivolous attempts at decorating mocks how it is masking the true state of the home; colour symbolism of white reversed as it is in fact a very hostile environment)

Satis House

- 'Of old brick, and dismal, and had a great many iron bars to it. Some of the windows were walled up...a courtyard in the front was barred' (Ch 8)
 - Sense of entrapment in a wealthy mansion, in gothic and worn down environment; links wealth to loneliness and decay
 - Satis House is used as a symbol of the corrosive and decaying effects of wealth
 - Shows how Miss H's self-destructive nature is reflected on her environment (character v environment theme)