• ‘What have I done! What have I done! What have I done!’ (Ch 49)
  ▪ Self-realisation emphasised with the repetition of these exclamations-
typical of bildungsromans
  ▪ Miss H looses all of her usual linguistic sophistication and eloquence,
which is evidence of her great change of emotional state
• ‘dropped to her knees at my feet, with her folded hands raised to me’ (Ch 49)
  ▪ Lowers herself to a position of submission, vulnerability and gratitude
  ▪ Dickens uses this to symbolise that she’s emotionally broken and ‘not all
stone’
  ▪ We are left with the more sympathetic view of Miss H as the last scene
depicts her as both emotionally and physically fragile
• Pip’s prompt forgiveness redeems the majority of her wrongdoings at the end
of the novel, although Estella’s forgiveness of her is never explicitly revealed,
leaving ambiguity about whether she was fully redeemed or not
• Throughout the novel, the reader discovers that it was Compeyson is the person
who caused her to act as she does, as he broke her heart the day he jilted her—
Miss H is the victim of his deception (Appearance v reality)
• ‘I saw her running at me, shrieking with a whirl of fire blazing around her’ (Ch 49)
  ▪ Active verbs (‘running’, ‘shrieking’, ‘blazing’), vividly depicts her spiritual
cleansing, as fire was commonly associated with that
  ▪ However, it is ambiguous as fire also has negative connotations, and it
could be interpreted that being set on fire was her punishment
• ‘corpse-like’ (Ch 8) ‘faded spectre in the chair’ (Ch 17)
  ▪ The change from a weaker descriptive simile to a strong and vivid
metaphorical supernatural comparison gives the reader a strong image
and impression of Miss H’s deterioration (theme of self-destruction)

Pip

• ‘I was a blacksmith’s boy but yesterday; I am—what shall I say I am—to-day?’
  ▪ The younger Pip values what he is rather than what he does, which
Dickens uses to mock how society only values the status of people, rather
than their qualities and actions
• ‘It would have been cruel in Miss Havisham to practise on the susceptibility of a
poor boy...But I think that in the endurance of her own trial, she forgot mine’
  ▪ Pip sympathises with Miss H despite the pain he has caused her, believing
that people are innately good and it is their distorted dreams that
misguides and derails them—this is reflective of that he is positively
influenced by Joe’s virtues and qualities
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 gentleman

Relationships

Pip & Joe

- ‘I always treated him as a larger species of child, and as no more than my equal’ (Ch1)
  - Pip & Joe are peers; Joe’s uneducated
  - Joe is not the stereotypical the authoritative figure and the superior here
- ‘We were equals afterwards, as we had been before... but I had a new sensation of... looking up to Joe in my heart’ (Ch 7)
  - Pip’s attitude changes
  - Pip has a paternal figure now; he can look up to him
  - Theme of education - emotional education
- ‘We wouldn’t have you starved to death for it...would us, Pip?’ (Ch 5)
  - Joe thinks of Pip as equal - he believes they think the same way
  - Example of how Joe has a positive influence on Pip
Narrator Pip shows his deep regret for badly influencing Herbert—shows the closeness of their friendship

- ‘If I could have kept him away with paying money, I certainly would have paid money’
  - Although Joe has shown him so much unconditional love, Pip’s wealth has caused him to develop such a cold and harsh approach to Joe’s love
  - Dickens uses this to suggest Pip’s character is not strong enough to overcome the corruption that comes with wealth

**Love & Hate**

- Dickens depicts a ‘good’ kind of love and a ‘bad’ kind
- Miss H is blinded by her love for Compeyson and then her love for E becomes an obsession—both ‘bad’ and destructive kinds of love
- Joe and Biddy love Pip unconditionally and forgive him—‘good’ love
- Pip’s ‘love’ for Estella seems questionable, as in most occasions it seems either like a fairytale (he sees himself as ‘the Knight of romance’ who’ll ‘marry the Princess’ [satirical]) or like an infatuation (‘she had taken such strong possession of me’ [supernatural]). His love is presented by Dickens to make him delusional and overlook reality—he believes he and E are ‘destined for each other by Miss H (‘she had adopted Estella, she had as good as adopted me’) when that is clearly not the case

**Good v Evil**

- ‘No varnish can hide the grain of the wood and that the more varnish you put on, the more the grain will express itself’
  - Dickens uses this vivid metaphor to suggest that if at heart you are an evil person, no matter how much you pretend to be good, your innate evil nature will be exposed
  - It shows Herbert’s wisdom that he understands the concepts and recognises the social pretences around him
- Jaggers recognises how he lives in ‘an atmosphere of evil’ and all he sees of children was ‘their being generated in great numbers for certain destruction’
  - Shows how Jaggers tried to ‘save’ Estella
  - Exposes the corruption of the justice system and their punishment, Dickens goes as far as calling it ‘evil’