

Great Expectations Analytical Paragraph

Prompt: Why has Pip's attitude toward home changed? What does this tell you about his character?

Since the beginning of the book, Pip has a very timid character, but ever since he has started to visit Miss Havisham's mansion, his attitude towards his home and the people around him has changed. Pip experiences this change of attitude and character due to the exposure and interaction of society around him, alongside adolescent effects.

At the beginning of *Great Expectations*, Pip shows that he is a very innocent and timid boy. When the prisoner demands Pip to bring the file and food, and he instantly obliges. Pip's actions imply that Pip hasn't had much exposure to society, as, typically, people with exposure to society are told to run away and call for the local authorities. In Chapter 11, Pip gets into a fight with the pale young gentleman. "I never have been so surprised in my life, as I was when I let out the first blow, and saw him lying on his face back..." (Page 161). In this case, Pip does something surprising when compared to the previous chapters - he starts the fight. While at Miss Havisham's mansion, Pip is insulted verbally and emotionally, and Pip becomes aware of social classes and that he is not high. Desperate to find some way to prove himself, Pip has gained courage and independence after visiting Miss Havisham's mansion, explaining why Pip lied to Joe, Mrs. Joe, and Pumblechook and felt ashamed while at the mansion with Joe.

Pip's maturing may also be a reason why Pip's attitude towards his home has changed. Estella's insults and heartbreaks affected Pip. "He calls the knaves, Jacks, this boy!" said Estella

with disdain, before our first game was out. 'And what coarse hands he has! And what thick boots!' I had never thought of being ashamed of my hands before; but I began to consider them a very indifferent pair." (Page 105) The insults made Pip feel like a commoner - a person who was below Estella's standards. It is clear that Pip has a crush on Estella, and because of that, Pip becomes aware of his interactions with commoners because he may be afraid of getting more embarrassed. Pip shows that the people around him easily influence him.

Pip's exposure to social classes and his environment make him a more independent and courageous person. Pip's maturing may also be a reason for his changed attitude, as he is in his adolescent years and has a crush on Estella, which makes him very easily influenced by her. These interactions with society cause changes in attitudes towards his home and tell us a lot about his character.