

How does Charles Dickens create an exciting first instalment to his book *Great Expectations*?

The opening paragraph explains how Pip got his name. This appears to be as when Pip was a child he was unable to pronounce his full name being Philip Pirrip so his name was shortened to Pip.

Early on in the first instalment you get to know Pips family history. This is explained by saying to the reader that pips parents are dead, and only him and his sister are alive. All ready you begin to feel sorry for pip as his as no memory of his family. The only way pip can image what his parents looked like is to compare it to the writing on their tombstones. An example of this is when pip says his father must have been stout with curly black hair; he got this idea from how the letters are written on the tombstone of his father. All from the description from pip gave you learn that pip had five brothers that had also died. Even after reading the first paragraph Dickens has made the reader want to continue with the story because of his use of descriptive language.

Dickens describes the way the characters look very well so that the reader gets a picture of what they look like. For example the man Pip meets in the graveyard Dickens says he was a fearful man and described this by saying 'soaked in water' 'smothered in mud and lamed by stones'.

Dickens can build up tension by making his sentences short for example 'Pip sir' sometimes the sentences are filled with fear for example 'Or I'll have your heart and liver out'

Although the reader starts to feel that pip is afraid of the stranger, Dickens also makes Pip appear brave by when he says 'If you be kindly please to let me keep upright sir perhaps I shouldn't be sick'

Magwitch the man who speaks to pip in the first instalment has just escaped from prison. We know this because he asked pip to get him a file to get the chains off his legs. His language is rude and very aggressive.

Pip's sister Mrs Joe Gargery who is married to the blacksmith brought pip up by hand. She was a mother figure to Pip as his mother died. We find out that her and the Blacksmith are twenty

years older than he. The blacksmith Mr Gargery is a bit slow and Mrs Gargery tells him what to do. We know this because Dickens writes 'that she must have made Joe Gargery marry her by hand.