

DRAMATURGY NEWSLETTER

VOL

2



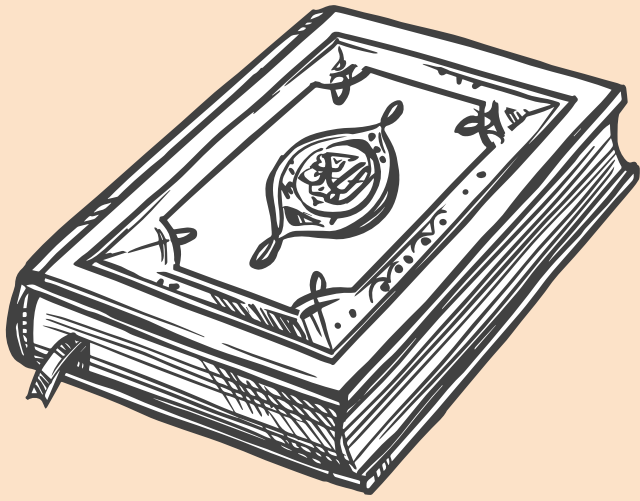
GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Join us in exploring the life and times of Charles Dickens and the world and history of his classic novel.

READ ALONG WITH US

Great Expectations was originally published in weekly installments in the magazine *All the Year Round* from December 1860 - August 1861. We will likewise send portions of the novel to you in our biweekly summer newsletters.

READ CHAPTERS 8-14 NOW



CHAPTER & SCRIPT ANNOTATION

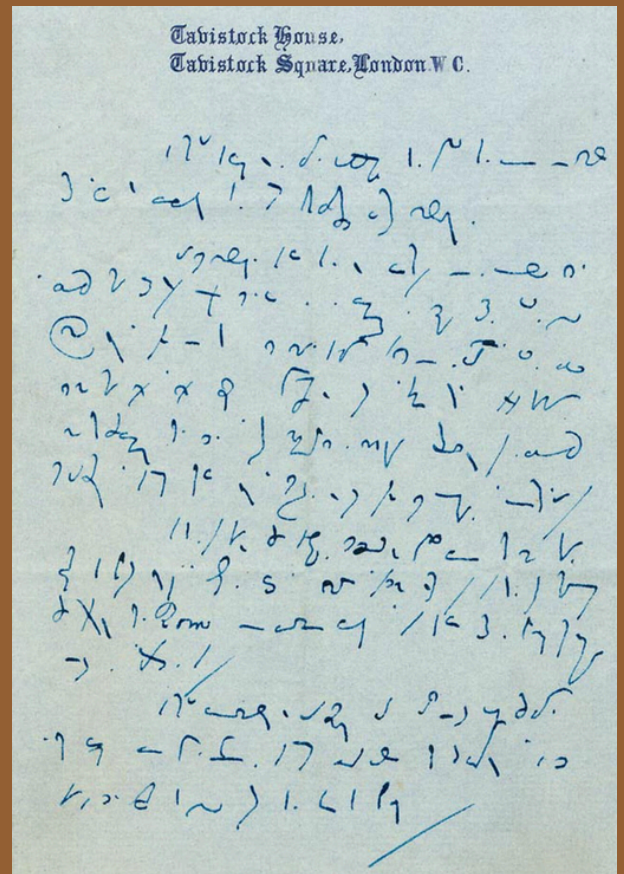
Need to find the chapter that matches your scene?

[FIND IT HERE](#)

WHAT THE DICKENS?

15-year-old Dickens found work as a junior clerk at a law office, but instead of working to become a lawyer, he voraciously studied Thomas Gurney's shorthand method. The skill allowed him to begin working as a reporter in the 1830s covering Parliament and British elections for outlets like *The Morning Chronicle*.

To the right is an example of the shorthand he used while drafting his novels.



Dickens described his earliest muse as the main character in the fairytale Little Red Riding Hood—perhaps as a way of dealing with his own childhood innocence devoured by unexpected evils. “She was my first love,” he wrote. “I felt that if I could have married Little Red Riding-Hood, I should have known perfect bliss. But, it was not to be.”

OTHER RESOURCES

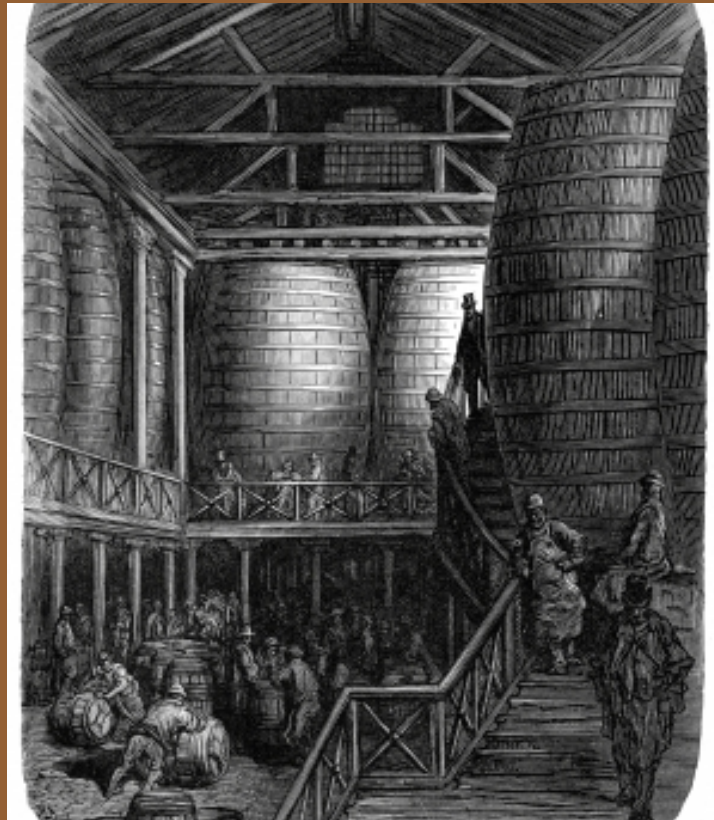
“This bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard.”

The memorable first scene of Pip in the graveyard most likely took place at (or was inspired by) St James' Church in Cooling, Kent.



There you can still see “Pip’s Graves,” the gravestones of 13 babies, which Dickens describes as “little stone lozenges each about a foot and a half long, which were arranged in a neat row.”

The “extinct brewery”



Interior of an unknown brewery

This novel is largely set in the marshlands of Kent in the southeast of England, an area that is historically famous for growing hops, which were used to make beer. Satis House is located in the same compound as a defunct brewery, indicating that Miss Havisham’s family fortune has come (at least partially) from a brewery business. Beer was the predominant beverage for the working classes and large breweries could employ up to several hundred workers, who were “predominantly male and relatively high paid.” (An Economic History of London 1800-1914, 2002, p 148).

*Do you remember any of
the lies you told as a child?*