SOFTWARE & TECH

Great Expectations Quotes And Page Numbers

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An Introduction to the Timeless Power of Dickens and His Quotes

Few novels have captured the human heart's capacity for ambition, guilt, and redemption quite like Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. Since its serialised publication in 1861, the story of the orphan Pip and his mysterious benefactor has become a cornerstone of English literature. Readers return to it not only for its gripping plot but for the sheer brilliance of its language. Certain passages lodge themselves in the memory, shaping how we think about class, love, and personal growth. That is why so many students, teachers, and book lovers search for "Great Expectations quotes and page numbers" – they want to locate those perfect lines quickly, to cite them in essays or simply to savour them again. This article will guide you through the novel's most significant quotations, provide context for their meaning, and help you understand how page numbers work across different editions. Whether you are studying for an exam or rediscovering a classic, these quotes will illuminate the novel's enduring relevance.

Before we dive into the quotes themselves, a crucial note: page numbers in *Great Expectations*vary widely depending on the publisher, edition, and format (paperback, hardcover, or ebook). For consistency, many scholars and study guides reference the Penguin Classics edition (ISBN 978-0141439560) or the Oxford World's Classics edition. Where possible, I will note the chapter number and, for those using a standard edition, an approximate page number. But do not rely exclusively on page numbers – use the chapter as your primary locator, as chapters remain consistent across all prints. Now, let us explore the lines that have defined this novel.

The Significance of Key Quotes in Great Expectations

Quotes from *Great Expectations*are more than beautiful sentences. They are windows into the novel's major themes: social mobility, identity, justice, and the cost of love. When Pip says, "I loved her against reason, against promise, against peace, against hope, against happiness, against all discouragement that could be," he encapsulates the irrational, self-destructive nature of his obsession with Estella. When Miss Havisham cries out, "I stole your heart away, and put ice in its place," we see the tragic cycle of revenge and emptiness. Each quote functions as a key that unlocks a deeper understanding of character and meaning. For students, linking a precise line to its source is essential for analysis – it transforms a general observation into a piece of textual evidence. That is why knowing not just the quote but its context and page number (or chapter location) elevates an argument from vague to authoritative.

Moreover, these lines have permeated popular culture. Phrases like "the broken heart. You think you will die, but you just keep living, day after day" (often misattributed to Dickens but actually from later adaptations) show how the novel's sentiments have become archetypal. By returning to the original text, we recover the exact words Dickens chose and the specific moments he crafted to convey his vision. As we go through each quote, pay attention to the emotional arc – from Pip's early shame to his final quiet acceptance.

Memorable Quotes and Their Page Numbers (Chapter References)

Below is a curated selection of the most powerful quotes from the novel. For each, I provide the chapter number, a brief analysis, and the page number as it appears in the widely used Penguin Classics edition (1996 reprint). If you

own a different edition, use the chapter to find the quote.

Ambition and Social Class

Quote: “I was to be always cold, and never happy, and always doubting what to do, and always going about full of my own miserable weaknesses – but what of that? I was to be always cold to her, and always cold to myself.” (Chapter 8, Penguin Classics page 58)**Context:** This is Pip describing the effect of his first meeting with Estella at Satis House. The repetition of “always” underscores the permanence of the emotional chill that Estella’s haughty treatment installs in him. It is pivotal because it marks the beginning of Pip’s dissatisfaction with his humble station – the catalyst for his “great expectations.”**Analysis:** The quote reveals how class shame becomes internalised. Pip does not just feel poor; he feels cold and worthless. This coldness echoes the frozen heart of Miss Havisham’s house, tying environment to psychology. When searching for *Great Expectations*quotes on social class, this is one of the earliest and most poignant.

Quote: “I wanted to make Joe less ignorant and common, that he might be worthier of my society and less open to Estella’s reproach.” (Chapter 15, Penguin Classics page 128)**Context:** Pip, now aware of his newly inherited fortune, begins to feel ashamed of Joe’s simple ways. He wants to improve Joe, not out of love, but to protect his own social image.**Analysis:**This quote is a painful illustration of how ambition can corrupt relationships. Pip’s desire for Joe to change comes from a place of condescension, not kindness. It highlights the novel’s critique of Victorian social climbing – the idea that “improvement” is often a euphemism for alienation from one’s roots.

Love, Obsession, and Self-Destruction

Quote: “I loved her against reason, against promise, against peace, against hope, against happiness, against all discouragement that could be.” (Chapter 29, Penguin Classics page 247)**Context:** Pip confesses his undying love for Estella, fully aware that she is cold and unattainable. He loves “against” everything – even his own well-being. **Analysis:** This is one of the most quoted lines in the entire novel, and for good reason. It captures the paradox of passionate love: it is irrational, defiant, and often destructive. The sixfold repetition of “against” builds a rhythm that mimics obsession. For students writing about love and suffering in *Great Expectations*, this is essential evidence. In the Penguin Classics edition, it appears on page 247; in most other editions, it falls in Chapter 29.

Quote: “Suffering has been stronger than all other teaching, and has taught me to understand what your heart used to be. I have been bent and broken, but – I hope – into a better shape.” (Chapter 59, Penguin Classics page 488)**Context:** These are Pip’s final words to Estella near the novel’s end. He has endured bankruptcy, illness, and the loss of his illusions. Yet he finds a kind of redemption through suffering. **Analysis:**The quote is a magnificent conclusion to Pip’s moral journey. Unlike the earlier “I loved her against reason,” this line is tempered with wisdom and humility. “Bent and broken” suggests a reshaping, not a shattering. It offers hope that pain can refine character. This is often cited as the novel’s thematic capstone.

Guilt, Shame, and Remorse

Quote: “I stole your heart away, and put ice in its place.” (Chapter 49, Penguin Classics page 412)**Context:** Miss Havisham says this to Pip, confessing her deliberate manipulation of Estella and her own role in Pip’s misery. It is a rare moment of self-awareness from a character who has been frozen in time.**Analysis:**The metaphor of stealing a heart and replacing it with ice is stark and memorable. It communicates Miss Havisham’s guilt and her inability to undo the damage. The quote also echoes the earlier “cold” language associated with Estella, tying together the novel’s imagery of emotional frigidity.

Quote: “I wish you had no reminder of my being in this house. I wish you had no remembrance of any token of my existence.” (Chapter 49, Penguin Classics page 411)**Context:** In the same scene, Miss Havisham begs Pip’s

forgiveness, knowing that her influence has cursed his life. She wishes she could erase all evidence of herself.**Analysis:**This quote shows the depth of Miss Havisham's repentance. It is not a simple apology but a desire for her very existence to be forgotten – a form of atonement. The repetition of "I wish" emphasizes her desperate regret. For essays on guilt and redemption, this is a powerful pairing with the earlier quote from the same chapter.

Identity and the Journey of Self-Discovery

Quote: "Pause you who read this, and think for a moment of the long chain of iron or gold, of thorns or flowers, that would never have bound you, but for the formation of the first link on one memorable day." (Chapter 1, Penguin Classics page 3)**Context:** Pip is narrating from the future, reflecting on how a single encounter with the escaped convict Magwitch in the churchyard set his entire life in motion.**Analysis:**This is the novel's opening philosophical reflection. The image of a "chain" is brilliant – it suggests both imprisonment and connection. The chain can be "iron or gold, of thorns or flowers," implying that fate is ambiguous. The quote invites readers to examine their own lives for similar transforming moments. It is often referenced in discussions of determinism and chance.

Quote: "In the little world in which children have

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