

## ***Jane Eyre vs. Great Expectations***

**Themes:** There is a key similarity between the two novels. Both novels focus on the ideas of relationships and love, and of identity and self-reliance. Throughout both novels, the main characters experience and develop relationships with people that either help or hinder their development of who they are and how they respond to others. However, a key difference between the novels is how the characters grow in these areas. Jane is always seen in a positive light in the pursuit of identity and healthy relationships, but encounters obstacles beyond her control. Pip, on the other hand, becomes very arrogant and self-absorbed and causes most of the conflicts in the relationships that he develops because of his misinterpretation of who he is and where he belongs.

**Beginning Relationships:** At first, more similarities than differences exist between Pip and Jane's position and struggles. Let's look at who they are as children, and how they relate to the key adults in their lives.

**Pip as a Child** - orphaned, raised by sister and brother-in-law, quiet, introverted, scared easily, abused by sister, emotional (internally - easily intimidated)

**Jane as a Child** - orphaned, raised by aunt, introverted, passionate, internalizes feelings then explodes, emotional, abused by cousins and aunt, sent away

**Mrs. Joe's treatment of Pip** - physically and verbally abusive, doesn't think he acts "good" enough, feels obligated towards him, as a very harsh sense of family, wants him to get ahead socially

**Mrs. Reed's treatment of Jane** - resentful and contemptful, lets the children abuse her, blames her for everything, doesn't think she acts "good" enough, feels she is not socially worthy, sends her away

**Joe's response to Pip and Mrs. Joe** - sympathy for Pip, but fearful to take his side too much because of Mrs. Joe's temper, befriends Joe and sees them as equals; tries to keep the peace, loves and accepts his wife though he fears her

but knows she can't do much about her condition, tries to tell Jane how to act better, stands up for Jane somewhat (Red Room incident), but knows her place as a servant and doesn't cross the line with Mrs. Reed; doesn't agree with Mrs. Reed but understands her and doesn't fight her.

**Bessie's response to Jane and Mrs. Reed** - sympathy for Jane,

**Mr. Pumblechook's Role** - the uncle, brings news of the "play date" with Miss Havisham; disapproves of Pip's "bad" behavior, tries to raise the family's social class, takes Mrs. Joe's side

**Mr. Brocklehurst's Role** - takes Jane to Lowood, agrees with Mrs. Reed that she is a "bad" child and in need of training, thinks she needs to embrace her low social class and make the most of it, takes Mrs. Reed's side

## **Compare / Contrast Essay:**

Write a 4-5 page essay discussing the similarities and difference between Jane in *Jane Eyre* and Pip in *Great Expectations*. Your paper should discuss their childhoods, educations, relationships, and attitudes towards others.

With the paper, provide a typed outline, stating your thesis statement, major points, and citing specific references from each novel as “proof” of your thesis statement. Your outline should reflect both the content and organization of the paper.

### **Essay Reminders:**

- ❑ Thesis statements are fact + opinion, one-sentence, debatable, and provable
- ❑ Essays should have Unity and Coherence. Make sure that you stay focused on developing your thesis statement, and that every part of your paper logically connects.
- ❑ Paragraphs need clear topic sentences, supporting sentences, and concluding sentences. The major points of your outline should become topic sentences.
- ❑ Essays need introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions.

### **Formatting Requirements:**

- ❑ Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, 1” margins.
- ❑ The heading should have your name, the class, my name, and the date, each on its own line. This should show on the first page only, and may be double-spaced.
- ❑ A header should show on each page with your last name and the page number.

\*\*I need a printed copy and an electronic copy of this paper.

### **Grading:**

**50 points - Ideas / Content**

**40 points - Organization / Style / Effectiveness**

**10 point - Grammar / Mechanics**