

GREAT EXPECTATIONS – CHARLES DICKENS

*The story unfolds in the marsh country, down by the river, within, as the river winds, twenty miles of the sea. We first see little **Pip** alone, in a bleak churchyard that is overgrown with nettles.*

Pip

Reading the inscription on a tombstone... 'Philip, Pirrip, Late of this parish'... That was my father... He traces with one finger the shape of the letters... He must have been big, and square, and dark, and I expect he had curly brown hair... He reads on... 'Also Georgiana Wife of the Above'... Again, he traces the letters... I think she would have had freckle things on her face, and I don't expect she was very well a lot of the time.... 'Also sacred to the memory of Alexander, Bartholomew, Abraham, Tobias and Roger, infant children of the aforesaid.' Those were my five little brothers... Alexander.... Bartholomew... Abraham... Tobias... And Roger. I wish they were here now... I don't like this place when it's getting dark...

*He screams as a fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg, starts up from among the graves. The intruder is **A Convict** who has escaped from the hulks. He has been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars. He limps and shivers and glares and growls...*

Convict

Hold your noise! Keep still, you little devil, or I'll cut your throat!

*He seizes **Pip** by the chin...*