

Make this analysis in the form of questions and answers: The first chapters of *Great Expectations* set the plot in motion while introducing Pip and his world. Pip's surroundings--in this section, the "shrouded" marshes of Kent and the oppressive bustle of Mrs. Joe's house--are also important to the novel. Throughout *Great Expectations*, Dickens uses setting to create dramatic atmosphere: the setting of the book always sets the tone for the action and reinforces Pip's perception of his situation. When the weather is dark and stormy, trouble is usually brewing, and when Pip goes alone into the mist-shrouded marsh, danger and ambiguity usually await. In this section, Pip's story shifts rapidly between dramatic scenes with the convict on the marshes and comical scenes under Mrs. Joe's thumb at home. Despite Mrs. Joe's rough treatment of Pip, which she calls bringing him up "by hand," the comedy that pervades her household in Chapter 2 shows that it is a safe haven for Pip, steeped in Joe's quiet goodness despite Mrs. Joe's bombast. When the convict questions him about his parents' names, Pip recites them exactly as they appear on the tombstones, indicating his youthful innocence while simultaneously allowing Dickens to lessen the dramatic tension of the novel's opening. This is characteristic of Pip as a narrator throughout *Great Expectations*.