

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens ( as adapted by Michael Lawrence )

My first name is Philip and my last name is Pirrip, but when I was very small the best I could make of these two together was 'Pip', so I called myself Pip, and Pip I remained, to myself and to everyone else. I was the last of seven children, and the only boy to survive. My parents died too when I was very young, whereupon I went to live with my older sister and her husband, Joe Gargery.

We lived near the river, within twenty miles of the sea. Marsh country it was: a dark, flat wilderness with lakes and mounds and gates, with scattered cattle grazing where they could. But the bleakest of all was the churchyard, a very neglected place, overgrown with nettles.

On a certain afternoon, as the light began to fade and a raw wind rushed in from the sea, I went alone to the churchyard to visit the dead of my family. Standing there, by my parents' headstones and the row of tiny graves that contained my five brothers, such a mournful feeling crept upon me that I began to shiver and cry.

"Hold your noise!" cried a terrible voice. I whirled about, fist to mouth. A fearful man had risen from among the graves. He was dressed in mud –spattered grey, with an old rag tied about his head and a great iron chain on his leg.

1. What words tell us that the churchyard is usually deserted?
2. What does the author mean when he says there were '*scattered cattle grazing...*'?
3. What is the effect of the word 'mournful' in the third paragraph?
4. In the third paragraph, what words does the author use to set the atmosphere and mood of the scene?
5. In the final paragraph, why does Pip '*whirl around, fist to mouth...*'?



