

Name - \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

**Excerpt: From "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens**

I was made awkward by his unexpected coming, and in a few moments began to feel in that odd dreamy kind of pity for him that I had been inspired with so many years ago. But now I thought the condition of his existence over with such an affrighted compassion for him as I never had before.

"That you may have a better claim to a truly charitable judgement, I will tell you how I came to be concerned in the events that are now to befall you."

He didn't look to be very much lifted up by his gallantry, but he sat down on a table and swinging his feet and looked at the fire.

"Are you familiar yet with the name of any one in the family, Estella?"

"I have heard of none."

"Nor of any property?"

"I—never heard of any."

"Ha!" he said, "I told you so! You have thought of nothing but your own gratification. Now, I have been made wretched by my own thoughtless impulses. When I have realized my sins I can afford to be more pitiful. Now, tremble, for I must warn you that you will be contaminated by my experience. You will share my abhorrence of the destiny into which I have fallen."

Questions:

1. Describe the character of the speaker in the passage. What emotions and motivations can you infer from his words and actions?

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2. What can you infer about the relationship between the speaker and Estella based on this passage? How does the dialogue reveal their dynamic?
3. Analyze the author's use of dialogue and internal thoughts. How does Dickens use these techniques to convey the speaker's state of mind and the tone of the passage?
4. Identify the themes present in the passage. How does the passage contribute to the exploration of these themes in the novel?
5. Explore any symbolic elements in the passage. Are there any objects or words that might carry deeper meaning? How do these symbols contribute to the overall message of the passage?
6. Analyze Dickens' writing style in this passage. Consider the choice of words, sentence structure, and overall tone. How does the author's style contribute to the mood of the passage? Discuss any literary devices employed, such as metaphors or similes.