Great Expectations Feedback

* **Genre** – narrative excerpt, descriptive, uses descriptive and evaluative language
* **Binaries** – wealthy/poor, youth/age, neat/untidy, bright/faded, fresh/withered, past/present
* **Narration** – first person, focalized on the ‘fine lady’, arouses curiosity
* **Symbol and metaphor** – white,yellow, jewels, *waxwork and skeleton, shrunk to skin and bone,*
* **Stylistic features and literary techniques** – contrast between past and present, use of lists, visual images (*bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands)*, similes (*had withered like the dress*),
* What emotions do these evoke, and how do they affect the readers’ perceptions of the characters in the scene?
* **Representation** – Miss Havisham as eccentric, frightening and strange yet a ‘*fine lady*’.
* Pip – young and inexperienced, intimidated by woman and her wealth
* Setting/place – visually overwhelming, show of great wealth
* Ideas – Miss Havisham has squandered her life despite her great wealth
* **Ideology** – wealth is desirable, those who enjoy great wealth also enjoy power over others, youth is preferable to old age
* **Cultural ideas** - What does this scene suggest about the “psychology of **class**”—the effect of one’s social status on one’s personality, character, beliefs and perceptions, and state of mind?
* The ‘*fine lady*’ wields power over others by virtue of her wealth. Wealth, and the material trappings of wealth, are normalised as being desirable. Pip is intimidated both by the strangeness of the ‘fine lady’ and her wealth.
* In terms of **gender**, the ‘fine lady’ has allowed her whole life to be dictated by romantic discourse and the expectation that she would marry. She wished to fulfil the performative role of wife. When she is jilted, she fails to adapt to a single life. Her attitude reinforces patriarchal ideology.
* The description also activates myths about the nature of **old age.**
* **Cenral idea – which is best?**
* **The main idea conveyed is that ‘the fine lady’ is to be both respected and feared.**
* **The theme of the excerpt is that wealth and power are mutually dependent.**
* **The main idea conveyed is that even though ’the fine lady’ is extremely eccentric she still wields power by virtue of her wealth.**
* **The excerpts conveys the idea that the narrating persona is both afraid and fascinated by the fine, but very strange, old lady.**
* **The main idea conveyed is that although the fine lady has suffered extreme misfortune and seems unhinged, she is still to be respected and feared.**
* **The excerpt normalizes the idea that wealthy people wield power despite their eccentricity.**
* **The excerpt from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is about an extremely wealthy and eccentric woman and shows that with wealth comes power.**
* **Possible opening paragraph**
* **The excerpt from Charles Dicken’s novel *Great Expectations* normalizes the idea that wealthy people wield power despite their eccentricity. A ‘*fine*’ but ‘*strange*’, elderly lady is described dressed in what appears to be her wedding dress, surrounded by objects from her wedding day and symbols of her wealth. Although the ‘fine’ lady has suffered extreme misfortune and seems unhinged, she is still respected and feared.**
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