**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo!**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Calamity 2. Fervent 3. Opulent 4. Chagrin 5. Gloat 6. Bland 7. Shard 8. Abandon 9. Conceal 10. Digest | 1. Lacking taste or strong features; uninteresting 2. Not allow to be seen; hide 3. A disaster; an event causing great damage or distress 4. Boast about your own success or another’s misfortune with pleasure 5. A piece of broken metal, glass or rock, typically with sharp edges 6. Annoyance or distress at having failed or been humiliated 7. Having or displaying a passionate intensity 8. Stop supporting or looking after someone or something; leave a place empty 9. Break down food to be absorbed 10. Very expensive and luxurious |

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens – Aldenham School 11+ Entrance Exam

**Read the following extract from *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens with care. Pip - a small boy - is paying his first visit to Miss Havisham; he finds the surroundings and the meeting a very daunting and difficult prospect.**

This was very uncomfortable, and I was half afraid. However, the only thing to be done being to knock at the door, I knocked, and was told from within to enter. I entered, therefore, and found myself in a pretty large room, well lighted with **wax** candles. No **glimpse** of daylight was to be seen in it. It was a dressing-room, as I supposed from the furniture, though much of it was of forms and uses then quite unknown to me. But **prominent** in it was a **draped** table with a **gilded** looking-glass, and that I made out at first sight to be a fine lady's dressing-table. Whether I should have made out this object so soon if there had been no fine lady sitting at it, I cannot say. In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see.

She was dressed in rich materials,—satins, and lace, and silks,—all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white **veil** **dependent** from her hair, and she had **bridal** flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less **splendid** than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks, were scattered about. She had not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on,—the other was on the table near her hand,—her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her **bosom** lay with those **trinkets**, and with her handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a Prayer-Book all confusedly heaped about the looking-glass.

It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of them in the first moments than might be supposed. But I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its **lustre** and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her **sunken** eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some **ghastly** **waxwork** at the Fair, representing I know not what impossible **personage** lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old **marsh** churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress that had been dug out of a **vault** under the church **pavement**. Now, waxwork and skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me. I should have cried out, if I could.

"Who is it?" said the lady at the table.

"Pip, ma'am."

"Pip?"

"Mr. Pumblechook's boy, ma'am. Come—to play."

"Come nearer; let me look at you. Come close."

It was when I stood before her, avoiding her eyes, that I took note of the surrounding objects in detail, and saw that her watch had stopped at twenty minutes to nine, and that a clock in the room had stopped at twenty minutes to nine.

"Look at me," said Miss Havisham. "You are not afraid of a woman who has never seen the sun since you were born?"

I regret to state that I was not afraid of telling the **enormous** lie **comprehended** in the answer "No."

"Do you know what I touch here?" she said, laying her hands, one upon the other, on her left side.

"Yes, ma'am." (It made me think of the young man.) "What do I touch?"

"Your heart."

"Broken!"

She **uttered** the word with an eager look, and with strong **emphasis**, and with a weird smile that had a kind of boast in it. Afterwards she kept her hands there for a little while, and slowly took them away as if they were heavy.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. How is Miss Havisham described in the second paragraph?
3. Using evidence from the passage describe the ‘dressing room’.
4. During the dialogue at the end of the passage Pip tells a lie. **Explain in your own words** why you think he chooses to lie?
5. Re- read paragraph 1. Select words and phrases from the description which show the situation that Pip finds himself in and that show how Pip feels about his visit explain how the writer has created effects by using this language.
6. Re-read paragraphs 2 and 3. Select words and phrases from these descriptions of Miss Havisham and explain how the writer has created effects by using this language.

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*

1. Wax – a sticky yellowish substance made by honeybees, used to make models
2. Glimpse – a momentary, quick view of something
3. Prominent
4. Draped – arranged loosely or casually on or around something
5. Gilded – covered thinly with gold leaf or paint
6. Veil
7. Dependent – unable to do without
8. Bridal
9. Splendid – magnificent; very impressive
10. Bosom – a woman’s chest
11. Trinket
12. Lustre – a gentle sheen or soft glow
13. Sunken – at a lower level than the surrounding area
14. Ghastly
15. Waxwork
16. Personage – a person of importance or elevated status
17. Marsh – an area of low-lying land which is flooded
18. Vault – a large room or chamber used for storage; a secure room
19. Pavement – a path for pedestrians on the side of a road
20. Enormous
21. Comprehend – understand
22. Utter – to make a sound with one’s voice
23. Emphasis

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.
* Imagine how Miss Havisham ended up where she is in this extract. What do you think her story is? Include ten of the words from the vocab list.