

**From the full length play:**

***Great Expectations***

**Adapted from Charles Dickens by Tracy Wells**

*PIP, a boy aged 12, visiting the graves of his parents*

PIP

(Brushes at tombstone)

What a mess.

(Puts flowers down in front of tombstone)

Mum and Pop, you really must learn to stay a bit more tidy.

(Cleans off moss and leaves)

Or else I am just going to have to visit more often so that I might keep my eye on you.

(Admires his work)

There, that's better.

(Sits down and leans against tombstone)

I guess that's what I'll have to do then—I'll just have to visit more often.

(Turns to tombstone)

Is that all right with you, Mum? And what about you, Pop?

(Leans back against tombstone)

I thought you might say that. And I agree. I enjoy our visits too.

(Smiles, then sits up, suddenly sad)

But you can't really hear me, can you, Mum?

(Stands, angrily)

And I don't even know what you look like, Pop. You both had to go and die before I was even old enough to remember you! All I can do is guess what you might have looked like, since Mrs. Joe refuses to tell me anything about you. I suppose it makes her sad. You were her parents too.

(Tracing letters on father's tombstone)

Lookin' at your name on this tombstone, Pop, I suppose you must have been a small, stout, curly haired man—with dark hair—yes, I can picture you exactly!

(Traces letters on mother's tombstone)

Mum, I imagine that you were thin and graceful and had the loveliest golden hair. It's really a shame Mrs. Joe didn't take more after you. I dare say she is the ugliest woman in town! But she is my sister, so I guess I'm supposed to say that.

(Coughing is heard. PIP stands, nervously, looking around)

Who coughed? Mrs. Joe, is that you? I'm sorry I said that you were ugly. I didn't mean it—really I didn't.

(Looks around more. When no one enters, PIP relaxes and sits down, leaning against the tombstone)

I guess I was just hearing things. It must have been the wind.

*To read the rest of this play, please visit <http://www.bigdogplays.com/>*