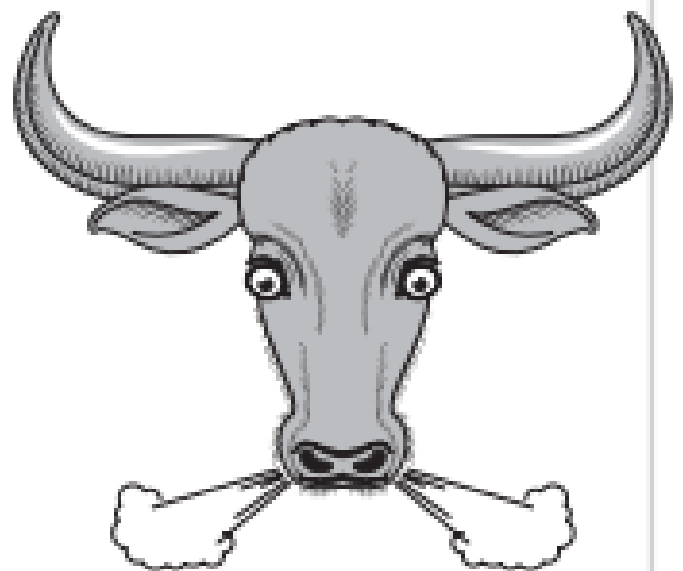


From *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens

The mist was heavier yet when I got out upon the marshes, so that instead of my running at everything, everything seemed to run at me. This was very disagreeable to a guilty mind. The gates and dykes and banks came bursting at me through the mist, as if they cried as plainly as could be, "A boy with Somebody-else's pork pie! Stop him!" The cattle came upon me with like suddenness, staring out of their eyes, and steaming out of their nostrils, "Halloa, young thief!" One black ox, with a white cravat on – who even had to my awakened conscience something of a clerical air – fixed me so obstinately with his eyes, and moved his blunt head round in such an accusatory manner as I moved round, that I blubbered out to him, "I couldn't help it, sir! It wasn't for myself that I took it!" Upon which he put down his head, blew a cloud of smoke out of his nose, and vanished with a kick-up of his hindlegs and a flourish of his tail.



All this time I was getting on towards the river; but however fast I went, I couldn't warm my feet, to which the damp cold seemed riveted, as the iron was riveted to the leg of the man I was running to meet. I knew my way to the Battery, pretty straight, for I had been down there on a Sunday with Joe, and Joe, sitting on an old gun, had told me that when I was 'prentice to him, regularly bound, we would have such Larks there! However, in the confusion of the mist, I found myself at last too far to the right, and consequently had to try back along the river-side, on the bank of loose stones above the mud and the stakes that staked the tide out.

Name:

Date:

Read the text, then answer the questions.

1. In the first paragraph, which words or phrases give the impression that the narrator (Pip) is in a hurry?

2. What words and phrases tell you that the narrator has done something *he knows* is wrong?

3. The ox reminds Pip of a minister in the church who wears a white clerical collar. What other ways did the ox make him feel bad? Tick "True" or "False" to the following statements.

	True	False
It looked at him as if it was accusing him of doing something bad.		
It stared at him.		
It stopped him escaping.		

4. What clues in the text tell you it was written about 150 years ago?

5. How does Dickens create the atmosphere of cold, damp and mist? Pick out at least **three** phrases he uses to do this and explain how they help to create the effect.

6. Pip compares the cold with the leg-iron of the man he is going to meet. What effect does that have?

7. What did Joe mean by "*such Larks*"? What does this tell you about the relationship between Joe and Pip?
