

<p>During the blockade we could not waste fuel or candles. But as the rebels and redskins went on butchering one another, we had another reason for hiding under the cover of night. Mr. Watts had given us kids another world to spend the night in. We could escape to another place. It didn't matter that it was Victorian England. We found we could easily get there. It was just the blimmin' dogs and the blimmin' roosters that tried to keep us here. (p. 23)</p>	<p>The children who attended school and listened to Mr. Watts read to them from Great Expectations, finally discovered a way to escape the daily dread of the insurrection on the island. They were able to transport themselves to a different world where Pip was their friend.</p>
<p>The surprising thing was that the new friend was found in a book. The new place something they could visit at any time. "Me and Pip had something else in common; I was 11 when my father left, so neither of us really knew our fathers." (p. 24)</p>	<p>The story started creating parallels with Matilda's life and she started trying to create a picture of her own father.</p>
<p>"As we progressed through the book something happened to me. At some point I felt myself enter the story. I hadn't been assigned a part—nothing like that; I wasn't identifiable on the page, but I was there, I was definitely there." (p. 46-47)</p>	<p>Matilda began to realize that she was feeling like Pip, orphaned and alone, because she was going to have to choose between Mr. Watts and her mother.</p>
<p>"Pop Eye is the offspring of a shining cuckoo." (p. 48)</p>	<p>Matilda's mum thought she had Mr. Watt's summed up – he was just a white man. White men were "to blame for the mine and the blockade. A white man had given us the name of our island. White men had given me my name. By now it was also clear that the white world had forgotten us." Matilda knew that Mr. Watt's was simply a kind man. He was so much more than just "white."</p>
<p>"It was always a relief to return to Great Expectations. I contained a world that was whole and made sense, unlike ours." (p. 65)</p>	<p>Matilda knew that she and her classmates were not the only ones who were grateful for the escape. Mr. Watt's could also feel he was back among white people and away from "our black-faced world of superstition and mythic flying fish."</p>
<p>"Yesterday marked the tenth anniversary since Grace and I first moved here. We have had so many memories, so many wonderful experiences. I don't know how we arrived at the events of today. I don't know what I can tell you or say, because no words can replace the things you have lost. But please believe me when I say Pip is a confusion that I failed to see coming until it was too late. I am so sorry." (p. 107)</p>	<p>The rebels showed up in the village and demanded to know who Mr. Pip was. Mr. Watts tried to explain he was a character in a book, but the book was not to be found. None of them were able to make the rebels understand. All of the possessions of the villagers were burned.</p>
<p>Matilda discovers that Mrs. Watts did not read Great Expectations. Mr. Watts said she tried, but "you cannot pretend to read a book. Your eyes will give you away. So will your breathing. A person</p>	<p>Matilda finally realizes how the book affected both her and Mr. Watts. It drove a wedge between her relationship with her mum. Mrs. Watts was not a reader and was not much different from the other</p>

<p>entranced by a book simply forgets to breathe. The house can catch alight and a reader deep in a book will not look up until the wallpaper is in flames.”</p>	<p>women in the village where she had grown up.</p>
<p>“(The rambos) had power. They had the power to ask the question that no one else thought to ask. The question was simple enough. Who are you?”</p>	<p>The rambos, young boys from the village who went to fight the rebels, came back to the village. No one knew how to treat them, especially when they became drunk. Mr. Watts became authoritative and told them he would tell his life story and it would take 7 nights. Matilda realized these rambos were just boys carrying guns and they missed the classroom.</p>
<p>“What would you call a savior? The only one I knew went by the name of Mr. Jagers. And so it was natural for me to name my savior, this log, after the man who had saved Pip’s life.” (p. 216)</p>	<p>Matilda knew that she could get off the island and escape, but the river in flood prevented her at first from meeting Gilbert’s family in the canoe. Mr. Jagers, of course was a character in Pip’s life and she still compared her life to everything that had happened to Pip in the story.</p>
<p>“Mr Watts had rewritten Mr. Dickens’ masterwork.” (p. 225)</p>	<p>Matilda has escaped from the island and is studying in a high school in Townsend, Australia. She found so many different things in the version she discovered and knew that Mr. Watts had condensed and changed the real story. “The attempts of us kids to retrieve fragments were little more than efforts to rebuild a castle with straw.”</p>