

## Great Expectations

There are hard times ahead  
in many a bleak house, it is said  
as great expectations all come to nothing  
A Christmas carol we won't hear,  
nor church bells' festive cheer,  
in our blasted, bleak midwinter  
With frozen water, iron-hard,  
a cheerless Tiny Tim will starve  
and Herbert's pocket will remain empty  
There may be deepest snow,  
Joe Gargery's forge will not glow  
and little Pip he may be abandoned.  
Satis House will be fried,  
Pip's hopes all denied and  
Estella a downhearted bride.  
Out on the marshes, let's have  
no scoffing at the lozenged-coffins  
of Pip's dear, departed siblings.  
All five taken away, with  
their parents, one day,  
so, leaving our hero an orphan,  
But once Magwitch is near,  
Pip shudders with fear when a file  
and some food are requested  
With choice of murder most foul  
or big sister's fearful howl  
Pip soon finds his voice

And commits to a crime, which  
though trivially small will, in time,  
fatefully resound upon all.  
He makes up his mind, hopes pie  
and file she'll not find and promises  
Magwitch to steal them.  
So, with scenes sad and sentimental,  
And many purely coincidental,  
Charles Dickens denies expectations.

*By Ken Franklin - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020*