

Grade 11 AP Summer Reading Assessment

Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Question 2

(Provided Time: 60 minutes)

The following passage is from Lloyd Jones' *Mister Pip*. Use this passage—as well as your own close reading of both *Great Expectations* and *Mister Pip*—to show how Dickens' work continually reminds Matilda of who she is and where she comes from.

During those years in Townsville I went on reading Dickens with mixed enjoyment. I read *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Bleak House*. The book I kept coming back to was *Great Expectations*. I never tired of it. And with each re-reading I got more out of it. Of course, for me it contains so many personal touchstones. To this day I cannot read Pip's confession—*It is a most miserable thing to feel ashamed of home*—without feeling the same of my island.

We are deep into the book, chapter 18 to be precise, when Pip discovers there is no going back to his old life on the marshes. For me, in my life, the same discovery had come much earlier. I was still a frightened black kid suffering from shock trauma when I'd looked down at the green of Honiara from the aeroplane, but I'd also known from that moment there would be no return.

My mum belonged to all that I was trying to forget. I didn't want to forget her. But there was always a chance the other things would ride back on that memory. I'd see those soldiers again, smell my mum's fear as if she were standing right by me, here at the bus stop or in the library.

Sometimes I couldn't help it. I couldn't keep the door closed on that little room in my head where I'd put her.