

1. Emily has constant obstacles thrown in her way because she is a woman. Are there any ways, however, that being a nineteenth-century woman works to her advantage?
2. Britain in 1897 was a society with enormous gaps between the wealthy and the poor. What would Mary Darby have thought when she saw the interior of Devonshire House?
3. How much more difficult would it be for any of us today to disappear in the way Estella did? Does modern technology limit us as much as it helps us?
4. Do you believe Jeremy's stated goal of being "the most useless man in England"? Why or why not?
5. Was the decision to move the bodies of the famous—Abélard and Héloïse, Molière, among others—to Père-Lachaise morally sound? What about the skeletons stacked in the Catacombs? Do we worry less about the moral implications of the treatment of human remains when we can't identify the individuals?
6. Are there ways in which Cécile, who has very rigid ideas about certain aspects of her life, and Estella are similar? Where is the line between charmingly eccentric and mad?
7. How morally culpable is Farrington Jones? He shouldn't have kidnapped Estella, but, in the end, did he actually make it possible for her to live the way she desired? Or, might she have lived a "normal" life if he'd never taken her?
8. Should Estella's servants have suspected something was amiss when they went so many years without seeing their mistress?
9. What do you think of Estella's decision to re-create the tomb in her house? Would she have preferred to stay in the original?
10. Estella's version of happiness is not one many others would share. Does that make it less valid?



*Discussion  
Questions*

