

## CHAPTER III

### DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Intrinsic Elements

This section examines the fundamental aspects inherent to Pip's character and role within the narrative of the novel, exploring how her traits, motivations, and actions contribute to her development as the central figure in the detective genre.

##### 3.1.1 Character and Characterization

Pip is characterized by her intelligence, determination, curiosity and compassion. Academically gifted, she uses her intellect to meticulously analyze clues and evidence. Her unwavering determination to seek justice drives her investigation, while her deep compassion for her loved ones adds emotional depth to her pursuit of the truth.

##### 3.1.1.1 Intelligent Person

Pip is a determined and resourceful high school student in Little Kilton, driven by a strong sense of justice and curiosity. From the beginning of the novel, Jackson makes it abundantly clear that Pip is an intelligent person. She is generally portrayed as someone insightful, as quoted:

*“Pip knew a great many things; she knew that hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia was the technical term for the fear of long words, she knew that babies were born without kneecaps, she knew verbatim the best quotes from Plato and Cato, and that there were more than four thousand types of potato.”*

(Jackson, 2019:3)

This quotation showcases Pip's intelligence through various specific examples of her extensive knowledge. Her familiarity with highly specialized terms illustrates her interest in obscure vocabulary and advanced language skills. Knowing that babies are born without kneecaps highlights her understanding of human biology and development, reflecting a broad and scientific knowledge base. Pip's ability to recall the best quotes from philosophers indicates her engagement with classical literature and philosophy, demonstrating both her analytical thinking and her capacity for memorization. Additionally, her awareness that there are more than four thousand types of potato, which is seemingly trivial, underscores her curiosity and retention of diverse information across various fields. These facets depict Pip as intellectually curious, well-read, and capable of absorbing and recalling a wide array of knowledge, all of which are traits commonly associated with intelligence.

### **3.1.1.2 Determined Person**

Pip is a determined person who is not easily discouraged. She is willing to go the extra mile to get to the truth, even when it means putting herself in danger. Throughout the novel, Pip strongly believes that Andie Bell's death is not an accident and Sal Singh does not kill her. It can be easily recognized that Pip has determination when she asks Ravi whether she can interview him for the case involving his brother, Sal, as quoted: . . . *“‘Why?’ he said. ‘Because I don’t think your brother did it – and I’m going to try to prove it.’”* (Jackson, 2019:5) . . . This quotation highlights Pip's determination in two ways. Firstly, her assertion that she does not believe Sal committed the crime indicates a firm stance based on her

reasoning and instincts. This shows that she has a strong conviction and is willing to stand by her beliefs even if they go against the accepted narrative or popular opinion. Secondly, her commitment to try to prove Sal's innocence demonstrates her proactive and resolute nature. Her willingness to actively seek out evidence and challenge the status quo underscores her perseverance and resolve.

Later on throughout the novel, as she dives further into the investigation, she gets more and more persistent in seeking answers, displaying an unyielding determination to uncover what happens. She willingly puts herself in risky or dangerous situations to gather information, even at personal peril.

### **3.1.1.3 Curious Person**

Pip's inherent curiosity is a driving force throughout the novel. It is her insatiable desire to understand the world around her and uncover the truth that motivates her to investigate Andie Bell's murder. Her curiosity is evident in her persistent questioning, her willingness to explore unconventional theories, and her determination to uncover the missing pieces of the puzzle, as quoted:

*“So if the Andie and Sal intercept happened at around 10:45 p.m., this would have given Sal one hour and thirty-five minutes to murder her and hide the body. I mean, timewise, that seems perfectly reasonable to me. It's possible. But there are already a dozen 'why' and 'how' questions elbowing their way in.”*

(Jackson, 2019: 28)

Pip's curiosity and analytical nature are evident as she meticulously evaluates the timeline surrounding Andie and Sal's intercept. Her calculated estimation of the time frame reflects her methodical approach to understanding the sequence of events. However, Pip's curiosity does not stop at surface-level analysis;

she is already grappling with numerous 'why' and 'how' questions, demonstrating her eagerness to explore multiple angles and delve deeper into the complexities of the situation. This portrayal underscores Pip's inquisitive mindset, showcasing her relentless curiosity and determination to uncover the underlying truths behind the events.

Additionally, Pip's questioning attitude highlights her refusal to accept easy answers or superficial explanations. She is driven by a need to understand the full picture, which propels her to keep digging and challenging the apparent facts. This relentless pursuit of knowledge and truth reflects a curious and determined character, who is not easily swayed by convenient conclusions but instead seeks to uncover the complete story.

#### **3.1.1.4 Compassionate Person**

Pip's compassion is a defining trait that shapes her character and her actions throughout the novel. She is a sensitive and empathetic individual who deeply cares about the well-being of others. Her compassion manifests in various ways, including her unwavering support for her friends and family, her unwavering commitment to justice for the victims, and her empathetic understanding of the pain of others, as quoted:

*“Pip, though only ten at the time, had helped support Cara through her mum’s diagnosis and death. And she’d been her constant two years ago, as a steady smile and a phone call into the small hours when Cara came out. Cara’s wasn’t the face of a best friend; it was the face of a sister. It was home.”*

(Jackson, 2019:22)

Pip's compassionate nature is evident in her long-standing friendship with Cara, who becomes her unwavering support system through life's trials. Pip's presence during Cara's mother's illness and coming out demonstrates her deep empathy and commitment to emotional support. She describes Cara as 'home' and 'like a sister', showcasing her profound emotional connection and steadfastness as a constant source of support. Pip's actions go beyond mere friendship; they reflect a deep-seated kindness and a willingness to be there for others in their darkest times. This unwavering support, from a young age, highlights Pip's innate empathy and her ability to form strong, meaningful bonds. Her role as a steady presence in Cara's life, offering comfort and understanding through significant and challenging moments, underscores her compassionate character. Pip's empathy is not just in words but in actions that demonstrate her genuine care and dedication to the well-being of those she loves.

### **3.1.2 Conflict**

This section analyses the various internal and external conflicts that shape Pip's journey as a detective hero in the novel, highlighting how these challenges propel her investigation and character development.

#### **3.1.2.1 Internal Conflict**

Pip faces a significant internal conflict between her desire for justice and her fear of personal consequences. She is torn between her belief that Andie Bell deserves justice and the risks involved in pursuing the truth. This internal conflict is evident throughout the novel and shapes Pip's character development, as quoted:

*“Pip knew she shouldn’t; she knew it was wrong and insensitive... And even though she could feel the sensible and rational parts of herself rallying in her head, she knew that a small sliver of Pip had already made the decision. That flake of recklessness inside contaminating all other thoughts.”*

(Jackson, 2019:113)

Based on the quotation, on the one hand, Pip is driven by a strong sense of justice and a desire to uncover the truth about Andie's murder. She believes that Sal Singh is wrongly convicted and that the real killer should be brought to justice. This belief is fueled by her empathy for Andie and her family, and by her sense of moral responsibility.

On the other hand, Pip is also aware of the risks involved in pursuing the truth. She knows that she is putting herself in danger by investigating the murder and that she could face retaliation from those who want to keep the truth hidden. She is also concerned about the impact her investigation could have on her friends and family, who could be drawn into the danger. Despite this, Pip feels an inner conflict; the rational part of her mind recognizes the danger and potential insensitivity of her actions, yet a “small sliver” of recklessness pushes her forward. This internal struggle highlights her complexity as a character, torn between her moral duty and the instinct for self-preservation, ultimately demonstrating her willingness to sacrifice her safety for the sake of justice and truth.

### **3.1.2.2 External Conflict**

Pip's parents express conflicting views on her involvement in solving Andie Bell's murder. Pip's mother fears the case could negatively impact her well-being, while her father advocates for her autonomy.

*“Her mum wasn’t happy that Pip was spending so much of her summer on schoolwork . . . She thought that obsessing over the Andie Bell thing would be unhealthy for her. Her dad wasn’t happy that her mum wouldn’t give Pip the space to make her own mistakes if that’s what they were.”*

(Jackson, 2019:64)

The conflict highlights the complexities of familial relationships and differing parental approaches to Pip's involvement in the investigation. Pip's curiosity and desire to understand her parents' stance on her dedication to solving the case exacerbate the tension. The conflict underscores the complexities of familial relationships and the importance of understanding and respecting differences. It reflects Pip's struggle to balance her investigative drive with the differing concerns of her parents, illustrating the challenge of navigating familial expectations and personal ambitions. This tension not only adds depth to Pip's character but also emphasizes the broader theme of finding one's path amid differing familial viewpoints and the process of asserting independence while maintaining family bonds.

### **3.1.3 Setting**

This section focuses on the role of the setting in the novel, highlighting how the specific places, timeframes, and conditions of events contribute to the narrative's atmosphere, plot development, and character interactions. It explores how the setting establishes the backdrop against which the story unfolds, influencing the overall tone and shaping the reader's understanding of the events and characters within the novel.

#### **3.1.3.1 Setting of Place**

The setting of the place provides a concrete backdrop for the unfolding mystery and investigation. By establishing a specific geographic location, the narrative becomes more immersive and relatable, allowing readers to connect with the characters and their environment on a deeper level. This sense of place is essential to understanding the social dynamics and tensions that influence Pip's journey, as quoted:

*“The first stage in this project then is to research what happened to Andrea Bell – known as Andie to everyone – and the circumstances surrounding her disappearance . . . Copied and pasted from the national news outlet to report her disappearance: ‘Andrea Bell, 17, was reported missing from her home in Little Kilton, Buckinghamshire, last Friday.’”*

(Jackson, 2019:14)

This quotation demonstrates how the specific mention of “Little Kilton, Buckinghamshire” anchors the story in a real, identifiable setting. By highlighting the exact location where Andie disappears, the author creates a vivid sense of place that enhances the narrative's authenticity. This geographical detail not only grounds Pip's investigation in a tangible environment but also underscores the significance of the local community in the story. The reference to a national news outlet reporting on Andie's disappearance further emphasizes the impact of the event on the town and its residents. Pip's meticulous documentation of these details in her production log entry highlights the importance of place in her investigation, as it shapes the social context and influences the clues she uncovers.

### **3.1.3.2 Setting of Time**

Pip's relentless pursuit of justice unfolds against the backdrop of a tightly-knit community haunted by a half-decade-old murder mystery. As the story unfolds,

Pip's determination to uncover the actual truth behind the Andie Bell case intensifies, fueled by the unsettling atmosphere that pervades the town of Little Kilton, as quoted: . . . *“What really happened to Andie Bell on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012? And – as my instincts tell me – if Salil ‘Sal’ Singh is not guilty, then who killed her?”* (Jackson, 2019:14) . . . This quotation distinctly situates the narrative in a specific timeframe, anchoring the story within the context of a past event. This reference to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the day of Andie Bell's disappearance, marks the controversial nature of the murder case. It highlights Pip's persistent doubts and suspicions, challenging the official conclusion that Sal Singh is the perpetrator. This temporal setting underscores Pip's relentless pursuit of justice as she seeks to unravel discrepancies and uncover hidden truths that have persisted since the resolved but unsatisfactorily closed case.

### 3.1.3.3 Setting of Society

The setting of society in the novel intricately shapes the narrative and characters, particularly evident in the portrayal of the Singh family's home in Little Kilton, as quoted:

*“Pip knew where they lived. Everyone in Little Kilton knew where they lived. Their home was like the town's own haunted house; people's footsteps quickened as they walk by and their words strangled and died in their throats . . . But it wasn't haunted by ghosts, just three sad people trying to live their lives as before.”*

(Jackson, 2019:11)

This quotation highlights the social isolation experienced by the Singhs following Sal Singh's involvement in Andie Bell's murder. The comparison of their home to a “haunted house” suggests a pervasive atmosphere of fear and unease

among the townspeople, who avoid the Singhs out of suspicion and mistrust. The metaphor underscores how societal judgment can transform a physical space into a symbol of exclusion and stigma. Pip's determination to investigate Andie Bell's disappearance despite this societal ostracism reveals her resilience and moral conviction, challenging the town's prejudices and seeking justice against prevailing community norms. This dynamic portrayal not only enriches the setting of Little Kilton but also deepens the thematic exploration of prejudice, resilience, and the pursuit of truth in the face of societal pressure.

## **3.2 Extrinsic Elements**

This section explores external factors contributing to Pip's character that influence her transformation into a detective hero in the novel, examining how societal expectations, personal motivations, and external events propel her journey towards becoming a detective hero.

### **3.2.1 The Causes Behind Heroism**

Pip's emergence as a hero is driven by her strong desire for justice, fueled by a personal connection to the case due to her acquaintance with Sal, and motivated by her determination to validate her investigative skills. These causes not only initiate her involvement but also shape her transformation into a tenacious and principled investigator.

#### **3.2.1.1 Having Desire for Justice**

From the moment Pip learns about the murder case of Andie Bell and the conviction of Sal Singh, Pip is consumed by a profound sense of injustice. Her

innate belief in fairness and accountability compels her to question the official narrative presented by authorities, sparking a relentless pursuit of truth, as quoted:

*“But she didn’t know how the Singhs found the strength to stay here. Here, in Kilton, under the weight of so many widened eyes, of the comments whispered just loud enough to be heard, of neighbourly small talk never stretching into long talk any more.”*

(Jackson, 2019:11)

The Singhs’ resilience in the face of community exclusion highlights the systemic injustices they face. By acknowledging the weight of judgment and discrimination placed upon the Singhs, Pip’s desire for justice is heightened as she recognizes the need to challenge and rectify the societal attitudes that perpetuate such injustices. Through her empathy and determination to advocate for the marginalized, Pip’s desire for justice is stimulated, driving her to confront systemic prejudices and fight for the rights and dignity of the Singhs.

Pip’s awareness of the strength required for the Singhs to deal with their exclusion makes her realize how widespread and harmful discrimination is. This realization fuels her determination to address not only the individual injustices faced by the Singhs but also the broader societal issues that allow such prejudice to thrive. Her commitment to justice becomes a personal mission to support the Singhs and challenge the community’s biases, reflecting her belief in equality and her resolve to make a meaningful difference this drive to advocate for the marginalized illustrates Pip’s growth as a character who is not only seeking to solve a mystery but also to effect social change and uphold the principles of fairness and justice.

### **3.2.1.2 Honoring Sal’s Memory**

Witnessing the injustices inflicted upon Sal Singh, from his wrongful conviction to the subsequent vilification of his character, deeply affects Pip. Pip refuses to allow Sal's memory to be tarnished by false accusations and societal prejudice, as quoted: . . . *“Because, for reasons I don't even quite know how to explain to myself, I want Sal Singh to be innocent. Reasons carried with me since I was twelve years old, inconsistencies that have nagged at me these past five years.”* (Jackson, 2019:26) . . . This quotation highlights Pip expressing her desire to uncover the truth and vindicate Sal's reputation, she demonstrates her commitment to honoring his memory. Her determination to challenge the narrative surrounding Sal's guilt reflects a desire to preserve his legacy and ensure that he is remembered for who he truly is—a kind-hearted and innocent individual whose life is tragically cut short by injustice.

In one part of the story, Pip recounts a significant moment from her past to Ravi where Sal comes to her defence against bullies who target her because of her Nigerian heritage. This act of kindness resonates with Pippa, leaving a lasting impression on her and serving as a testament to Sal's character, she said, . . . *“Since then, he's always been a hero to me. I just can't believe he did it.”* (Jackson, 2019:34) . . . As Pip reflects this memory, she is reminded of Sal's courage and compassion which, then, strengthens her resolve to seek justice for Sal and to ensure that his memory is honoured by uncovering the truth behind his wrongful conviction.

### **3.2.1.3 Wanting to Prove Herself Right**

Initially met with scepticism and dismissal from both peers and authorities, Pip's determination to solve the murder case of Andie Bell becomes a personal

mission to showcase her intelligence, resourcefulness, and dedication. As she delves deeper into the investigation, Pip encounters numerous challenges and obstacles, each one testing her resolve and pushing her to her limits, as quoted: . . . *“There are too many people in Little Kilton who had motive to kill Andie. I need tangible proof. I need that burner phone. And only then will I leave this alone, Unknown. Only when the truth is out there and you no longer are.”* (Jackson, 2019:158) . . . Despite receiving ominous messages from an unknown person, Pip refuses to be deterred from her pursuit of the truth. Her determination to uncover tangible proof and obtain critical evidence, such as the burner phone, underscores her unwavering commitment to the case. By setting high standards for herself and refusing to settle for anything less than conclusive evidence, Pip demonstrates her determination to prove herself as a competent and capable investigator. Her resolve is further highlighted by her willingness to face potential danger and intimidation to ensure that the truth comes to light. Pip’s steadfast focus on finding definitive proof showcases her dedication to justice and her belief in her abilities, reflecting a strong sense of purpose and resilience.

This relentless pursuit not only illustrates her investigative skills but also her courage and tenacity in the face of threats, emphasizing her growth as an investigator and unwavering drive to uncover the truth and bring justice to light.

### **3.2.2 The Stages to be a Detective Hero**

This section applies Vogler’s Hero’s Journey framework to analyze the developmental stages Pip undergoes as she transforms from an inquisitive student to a determined detective hero in the novel. It explores how each of the 12 stages

contributes to her growth and evolution throughout the narrative, namely Ordinary World, Call to Adventure, Refusal of The Call, Meeting the Mentor, Crossing the Threshold, Tests, Allies, and Enemies, Approach, The Ordeal, The Reward, The Road Back, The Resurrection, and Return with the Elixir.

### 3.2.2.1 Ordinary World

Pip, a high school student in Little Kilton, lives in a world overshadowed by judgmental glances, whispered comments, and altered social dynamics following the murder case of Andie Bell and the conviction of Sal Singh. In Vogler's Hero's Journey, Stage One, the Ordinary World represents the protagonist's familiar and mundane life before the adventure begins, as quoted:

*“It was a particular cruelty that their house was so close to Little Kilton Grammar School, where both Andie Bell and Sal Singh had gone, where Pip would return for her final year in a few weeks when the August-pickled sun dipped into September.”*

(Jackson, 2019:11)

The quotation encapsulates Pip's ordinary world by highlighting her imminent return to school, a familiar setting that connects her directly to the central mystery. It emphasizes her status as a high school student, grounding her in a relatable, everyday context before her investigative journey begins. The reference to Little Kilton Grammar School, where both victims attended, underscores the proximity and relevance of the mystery to Pip's daily life, setting the stage for her transition from an ordinary student to a determined investigator. This ordinary world provides the foundation from which Pip's heroic journey will unfold, highlighting the contrast between her regular life and the extraordinary challenges she will face.

### 3.2.2.2 Call to Adventure

Pip's initial doubts and scepticism about the accepted narrative propel her towards the investigation, marking the Call to Adventure in Vogler's Hero's Journey. This stage highlights her departure from the safety of the familiar and the commencement of her heroic journey as quoted:

*“When you ask people in town what happened to Andie Bell, they’ll tell you without hesitation: ‘She was murdered by Salil Singh.’ No allegedly, no might have, no probably, no most likely. He did it, they say. Sal Singh killed Andie. But I’m just not so sure . . .”*

(Jackson, 2019:21)

The quotation contrasts the town's firm belief in Salil Singh's guilt with Pip's uncertainty, signified by “But I’m just not so sure,” marking her drift from the accepted narrative. This internal conflict ignites her desire to uncover the truth, setting her apart from the town's collective conviction. Pip's hesitation to accept the town's consensus demonstrates her willingness to question authority and her commitment to seeking justice. This moment also signifies the beginning of her journey as she faces the gap between public perception and her intuition. It represents a crucial turning point in her character development, as she embraces her role as a truth-seeker and sets out to uncover the hidden realities lurking beneath the surface of her seemingly ordinary town.

### 3.2.2.3 -Refusal of the Call

While there is no explicit moment where Pip outright refuses the call to investigate Andie Bell's murder in the novel, her immediate pursuit of the investigation reflects her proactive and inquisitive nature. From the story's outset,

Pip displays determination and curiosity, driven by her desire for justice and her connection to the case, providing the underlying reasons why she does not go through her Refusal of the Call stage. As she delves deeper into the complexities of the investigation, acknowledges that she is navigating unfamiliar terrain. Her initial uncertainty about the outcome of her report stems from the challenges inherent in solving a complex and unsolved murder.

Throughout the narrative, her reluctance to withdraw from the investigation evolves as she becomes increasingly aware of the risks involved, demonstrating her growing understanding of the dangers associated with uncovering the truth behind Andie Bell's death.

### 3.2.2.4 Meeting the Mentor

Pip's investigation into the murder case takes a significant turn when Ravi agrees to help her, marking Stage Four of Vogler's Hero's Journey. This stage is a crucial turning point where the protagonist encounters someone who provides essential guidance, wisdom, or support to help them face the challenges ahead. The mentor usually offers knowledge, encouragement and tools that the hero needs during their adventure. This is depicted in the following conversation:

*“... I want to make a deal with you.’ ‘A deal?’ ‘Yeah, I want in on this,’ . . . ‘I never had a chance, but you actually might . . .’ He was really trusting her to help; she’d never have thought this would happen at the start of the project. Partners with Ravi Singh.”*

(Jackson, 2019:57)

In essence, this conversation signifies the establishment of a mentor-mentee relationship between Pip and Ravi. The line, "Partners with Ravi Singh," encapsulates the shift in their relationship, solidifying Ravi's role as a mentor figure.

This moment symbolizes the evolving dynamic between them, this dynamic partnership propels the story forward, highlighting the power of collaboration and the strength that comes from working together towards a common goal.

Moreover, Ravi's trust in Pip's abilities represents a significant milestone on her journey, boosting her confidence and reaffirming her determination to uncover the truth behind Andie Bell's murder.

### **3.2.2.5 Crossing the Threshold**

Pip's decision to interview Stanley Forbes, a journalist deeply involved in the Andie Bell case, marks a pivotal moment in her investigation. Crossing the Threshold signifies the stage where the hero moves from the familiar world into a realm of unknown challenges and risks. For Pip, "the threshold" represents the point in her investigation where she transitions from preliminary information gathering to actively confronting more complex and potentially dangerous aspects of the case, which is illustrated in the following quotation:

*"So I thought it would be a good idea to interview someone who is utterly convinced of Sal's guilt. Stanley Forbes, a journalist at the Kilton Mail . . . He covered a lot of the Andie Bell case in the local press and was even present at the coroner's inquest."*

(Jackson, 2019:26)

Up until this point, Pip has been gathering information and exploring leads. However, this decision to contact an influential figure like Stanley Forbes, who holds substantial knowledge about the case, represents a decisive step forward. Suggesting a shift in her investigative strategy and the beginning of a more profound exploration of the case.

By reaching out to Stanley Forbes, Pip demonstrates her willingness to delve deeper into the mystery and consider perspectives that may challenge her initial assumptions. This marks a significant turning point in her investigation, as she ventures beyond her comfort zone and seeks out new avenues for uncovering the truth. Additionally, the decision to interview someone who is convinced of Sal's guilt indicates Pip's readiness to confront opposing viewpoints and critically evaluate the evidence from all angles.

### **3.2.2.6 Tests, Allies, and Enemies**

For Pip's 'tests', her investigative journey is filled with challenges, including facing resistance from individuals unwilling to share crucial details, navigating misdirection and deceptive information, balancing trust and scepticism among potential allies, and also grappling with incomplete information, as quoted: . . . *“What happened next in the Andie Bell case is quite confusing to glean from the newspaper reports. There are gaps I will have to fill with guesswork and rumours until the picture becomes clearer from any later interviews;”* (Jackson, 2019:20) . . . This challenges her investigative skills and resourcefulness, highlighting the complexity of the case and the significant obstacle she must overcome. Pip's acknowledgement of the gaps in the newspaper reports underlines the limitations of relying solely on available information and emphasises the need for her to navigate through uncertainty and ambiguity. As she encounters these challenges, Pip must draw upon her creativity and intuition to fill in the missing pieces of the puzzle, piecing together a coherent narrative from fragmented sources and conflicting accounts. This process of sifting through guesswork and rumours

reflects her resilience and determination to unravel the truth, even in the face of obstacles and setbacks.

Pip's 'allies' are indicated by the evolving dynamic between her and Ravi Singh, which becomes as a central element in Pip's journey towards uncovering the truth behind Andie Bell's murder and clearing Sal's name. Ravi, acknowledging the risks involved, expresses his commitment and support to Pip as they work together to clear Sal's name, as quoted: . . . *"If this is how we're going to clear Sal's name, I have to be there for that. That's worth the risk. It's too important. . . . we're partners in crime after all. That means partners no matter what."* (Jackson, 2019:160) . . . His declaration, "We're partners in crime after all," solidifies their partnership and signifies Ravi's willingness to face the risks alongside Pip. Despite his reservations and acknowledging the recklessness of their actions, Ravi reaffirms their alliance and commitment, emphasizing the importance of their shared goal. This moment marks the strengthening of their partnership, portraying Ravi as a crucial ally who stands by Pip's side through the challenges and dangers they encounter in pursuit of justice for Sal. Ravi's willingness to support Pip shows his loyalty and dedication to their cause. It highlights the significance of their bond, highlighting the trust and mutual respect that exists between them. By embracing their roles as partners in the pursuit of truth and justice, Pip and Ravi form a formidable team, united in their determination to uncover the secrets surrounding the case.

Lastly, Pip encounters new challenges from ‘enemies’ as she starts receiving anonymous threats from an unknown source dissuading her from continuing her investigation.

*“She checked over both shoulders . . . and reached in for the note. ‘This is your final warning, Pippa. Walk away.’ It was clear now. Someone wanted her to know that they could get to her at home and at school. They wanted to scare her. And she was . . .”*

(Jackson, 2019:221)

The anonymous note threatens Pip with harm, causing her to feel vulnerable and fearful. The note's warning, "Walk away," serves as a reminder of the consequences of her pursuit of the truth. This fear disrupts her sense of security and normalcy, leading to sleepless nights and constant guarding against potential threats. The emergence of enemies underscores the gravity of her pursuit of justice and the challenges she must overcome.

Pip’s realization that someone is actively trying to intimidate her at home and at school adds a new layer of danger to her investigation. It signals the presence of enemies who are willing to go to great lengths to silence her and protect their secrets. This escalation in hostility highlights the high stakes of Pip’s quest and the increasing danger she faces as she gets closer to uncovering the truth. Additionally, the note catalyzes Pip’s growth, forcing her to confront the harsh realities of her investigation and steeling her resolve to continue her pursuit of justice despite the risks.

### **3.2.2.7 Approach**

Pip’s strategic decision to use technology for tracking, marks her The Approach stage in Vogler’s Hero’s Journey. This stage is where the hero faces the

edge of a dangerous challenge, requiring preparation and the marshalling of allies before taking on the final ordeal. Pip consolidates all the clues and leads she has gathered by focusing on Elliot Ward as the potential suspect ever since she finds out that he has been the one who is sending her the anonymous threats, as quoted:

*“I’m going to enable Find My Friends between our phones.’ . . . ‘Now we are sharing our locations indefinitely. And just like that, we have a tracking device.’ . . . ‘Tomorrow, at the end of school, I need to find a way to leave my phone in his car.’”*

(Jackson, 2019:268)

This quote effectively illustrates Pip's transition to The Approach stage, where she takes decisive action to confront the suspect and uncover the truth behind Andie Bell's murder. She is willing to put herself at potential risk to gather evidence, demonstrating her courage and determination to bring the truth to light. Her strategic thinking, resourcefulness, and unwavering determination are key elements of her growth as a protagonist.

Pip's decision to enable Find My Friends between her phone and Ravi's reflects her proactive approach to gathering information and building her case against the suspect. By utilizing technology this way, Pip demonstrates her adaptability and ingenuity in navigating the challenges of her investigation. This moment marks a crucial turning point in her journey, as she prepares to confront the suspect head-on and confront the truths that have been hidden for so long. Her approach sets the stage for the dramatic events that will unfold in the climax of the story.

### **3.2.2.8 The Ordeal**

For Pip, “the ordeal” signifies the point in her investigation where she must confront the most dangerous and decisive challenge. It occurs when she decides to take action after discovering evidence and accumulating suspicions against Elliot Ward. This is the moment where Pip faces a daunting challenge that will test her courage, resourcefulness, and resilience, and so, as the tension mounts, she dials 999, the national emergency response service, as quoted:

*“ . . . You need to send officers to forty-two Mill End Road in Wendover. Inside is a man named Elliot Ward. He kidnapped Andie Bell and murdered Sal Singh . . . I believe Andie is alive and she’s being kept inside. I’m going in now and I might be in danger. Please send officers quickly.”*

(Jackson, 2019:281)

The quotation illustrates her courage. But, it is also a risky decision for her to confront Elliot directly and alert law enforcement about her suspicions. Pip’s decision to confront Elliot directly, despite the potential danger she may face, signifies her bravery and determination to uncover the truth. This moment encapsulates The Ordeal stage as she faces a crucial and perilous moment in her investigation, taking significant risks to confront a suspected perpetrator and potentially save a victim. Pip notifying the law enforcement, adds another layer of complexity to the situation, as it involves not only her safety but also the potential consequences of involving authorities in her investigation.

Additionally, her belief that Andie may still be alive and in danger adds urgency to her actions, heightening the tension and taking off the ordeal. As Pip prepares to confront Elliot, she must draw upon all of her courage and resourcefulness to navigate this dangerous situation. This pivotal moment marks

the pinnacle of Pip's journey, as she faces the ultimate challenge and faces the consequences of her relentless pursuit of truth.

### **3.2.2.9 The Reward**

After an arduous and intense investigation that involved immense risks and personal sacrifices, Pip reaches a point where closure and resolution start to take shape. In Vogler's Hero's Journey, The Reward represents the stage where the hero, having faced and overcome their greatest challenge, received a benefit or insight that allows them to continue their journey with new strength and knowledge. This stage often involves a moment of clarity, healing or accomplishment that provides the hero with the motivation and resources needed to move forward. This stage is illustrated in the following quotation:

*“It's not your job any more, Pip,” he said. “The police have reopened Andie's case. Let them do the rest. You've done enough.” . . . She was tired. She needed to finally be free of all of this . . . Ravi was right; their part was over. ”*

(Jackson, 2019:297)

Ravi's words mark a crucial moment for Pip, as he acknowledges the reopening of Andie's case by the police and encourages her to let go of the investigation. Pip, initially driven by curiosity, realizes the exhaustion and burden of the investigation and yearns for closure. Her agreement with Ravi signifies their role in solving the Andie Bell mystery has reached its conclusion, marking The Reward stage. This moment of relief and closure allows Pip to release the weight of the investigation and regain personal freedom and peace. Moreover, it symbolizes Pip's growth as a character, as she learns to prioritize her well-being and recognize the importance of letting go of the past to move forward.

By accepting Ravi's advice and relinquishing her pursuit of the case, Pip shows her maturity and self-awareness. This moment serves cathartic release for Pip; a turning point in Pip's life as she transitions from being consumed by the mystery of Andie Bell's disappearance to embracing a future free from the shadows of the past.

### **3.2.2.10 The Road Back**

For Pip, her "road back" signifies her reluctance to fully let go of the investigation despite the case having seemingly reached its closure. In Vogler's Hero's Journey, "The Road Back" represents the hero's transition from the experiences of the journey back to everyday life, but it can also involve new challenges and obstacles that test the hero's resolve to their newfound understanding or purpose. This stage is depicted in the following quotation:

*"And then, without realizing what she was doing or how it happened, she'd found herself looking through it all again: rereading log entries, tracing her finger across the red string lines, staring into the suspects' photos, searching for the face of a killer."*

(Jackson, 2019:298)

Pip's re-emergence into the investigation marks a departure from the "reward" stage, where she had accepted closure. The resurfacing of doubts and the persistent belief in a different culprit signify her inability to rest until the truth is fully revealed. Her need to retrace the investigation steps and re-examine evidence suggests a belief that something crucial might have been overlooked or the real perpetrator not brought to justice. This moment represents a significant shift in Pip's journey as she confronts the possibility that the case might not be as closed as she thought. Her compulsion to revisit the investigation materials reflects her

unwavering commitment to uncovering the truth and her refusal to let go of her pursuit of justice.

As she delves back into the investigation, Pip's character undergoes further development, as she grapples with the complexities of the case and the moral implications of her continued involvement. Ultimately, Pip's decision to return to the investigation sets the stage for the final leg of her heroic journey, where she must confront the truths that have remained hidden and reconcile the conflicting forces within herself.

#### **3.2.2.11 The Resurrection**

As the novel approaches its climax, Pip's investigation journey reaches a critical juncture characterized by the resurgence of determination and a renewed investigative drive within her. Pip's 'resurrection' could be seen as the moment when she confronts the truth about Becca Bell's potential involvement in Andie's disappearance. This crucial moment captures a critical realization that sparks a resurgence in Pip's pursuit of the truth, as quoted: . . . "*The last person to see Andie alive? It had been Becca. It had always been Becca. Pip's eyes blinked back at her and the decision was made.*" (Jackson, 2019:302) . . . The quotation represents a definitive moment where Pip's renewed determination and clarity prompt her to refocus her efforts on a new lead, potentially unravelling overlooked aspects of the case and reopening the investigation. This realization marks the Resurrection stage in Pip's journey, where she confronts the final challenge and prepares for the ultimate showdown. By identifying Becca as a key figure in Andie's disappearance, Pip not only rekindles her investigation but also confronts the uncomfortable truths

that have been hidden beneath the surface. Her decision to pursue this new lead reflects her growth as a protagonist, as she demonstrates her willingness to challenge her assumptions and follow the evidence where it may lead. As Pip delves deeper into Becca's role in the case, Pip must navigate the complexities of friendship, betrayal, and deception, further testing her resolve and determination. Ultimately, the decision to focus on Becca Bell, Andie Bell's very own sister, as a suspect, sets the stage for the climactic resolution of the story.

### **3.2.2.12 Return with the Elixir**

Throughout her investigation, Pip has tirelessly pursued the truth, delving into the town's darkest secrets and confronting its hidden mysteries. However, as she nears the end of her quest, Pip comes to realize the limitations of her abilities and the complexity of the world around her. In Vogler's Hero's Journey, Return with the Elixir typically represents the ultimate award or boon the hero brings back from their journey, often symbolizing wisdom, knowledge, or personal transformation gained through their experiences. Pip's realization reflects her return with the "elixir" which represents the wisdom and personal growth she has gained, as quoted: . . . *"Little Kilton still had its mysteries, unturned stones and unanswered questions. But this town had too many dark corners; Pip had learned to accept that she couldn't shine a light into each and everyone."* (Jackson, 2019:314) . . . Pip's journey in Little Kilton is marked by lingering unresolved aspects, but she also acknowledges the limitations of her abilities. The metaphorical expression "too many dark corners" symbolizes the hidden and obscure aspects of the town, suggesting that despite her efforts there are still mysteries that elude her. Pip's

acceptance of her limitations signifies her growth and transformation. She may not have uncovered every secret or solved every mystery but Pip has gained valuable insights and experiences that will shape her future endeavors. This moment marks a profound shift in Pip's character, as she moves forwards with a greater sense of self-awareness and acceptance, ready to face whatever challenges may lie ahead.

### **3.2.3 The Impacts of Heroism**

This section examines the profound effects of Pip's journey to a recognized detective hero in the novel. It explores how her journey validates her investigative abilities within the public and among authorities, fosters her resilience, and leads to personal growth and self-discovery, highlighting the enduring changes in her character and future pursuits.

#### **3.2.3.1 Validation from Public and Authorities**

The culmination of Pip's investigation brings her a profound sense of validation. Throughout the story of the novel, Pip faces scepticism and dismissal from both her peers and authorities regarding her abilities as an investigator. However, as she meticulously uncovers the truth behind Andie Bell's murder and clears Sal Singh's name, Pip's relentless determination and perseverance are vindicated. Her unwavering commitment to justice not only leads to the resolution of a long-standing mystery but also earns her recognition and respect from her community, as quoted: . . . *“And they said they'd be holding a press conference once they've charged Mr Ward, and will release a statement about Sal's innocence.”* (Jackson, 2019:308) . . . Ravi shares the news with Pip that a press

conference to charge Mr Ward and declare Sal's innocence is set to happen, this serves as a tangible validation of Pip's investigative efforts. This public and official recognition of her findings validates Pippa's dedication and determination, affirming that her efforts are not in vain and that she succeeds in her mission to seek truth and justice.

The press conference represents a culmination of Pip's journey, where her relentless pursuit of the truth is acknowledged and celebrated on a broader scale. It does not only provide closure for the community but also serves as a testament to Pip's resilience and integrity as an investigator. The validation Pip receives from the authorities reinforces her sense of purpose and underscores the impact of her heroic transformation. Furthermore, it highlights the power of perseverance and the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity. The press conference serves as a defining moment in Pip's transformation, as she transitions from a determined investigator to a beacon of hope and inspiration for her community.

### **3.2.3.2 Resilience**

Pip's journey is marked by numerous challenges that test her resilience and determination. Her confrontation with Elliot Ward not only highlights the depth of her courage but also signifies her transformation into a resilient and determined advocate for justice, as quoted: . . . “*‘Maybe I can understand why you did it,’ she said. ‘But you will never be forgiven. You took Sal’s life from him to save your own. You destroyed his family.’*” (Jackson, 2019:287) . . . This quotation encapsulates Pip's resilience as she confronts Elliot Ward, a key figure implicated in Sal Singh's

murder. This act of resilience underscores Pippa's unwavering determination to seek justice, even in the face of discomfort and potential backlash.

Through her courageous confrontation, Pippa demonstrates her resilience in advocating for the truth and standing up for those who have been wronged, showcasing her steadfast commitment to seeing the case through to its rightful conclusion. By directly addressing Elliot and condemning his actions, Pip does not only confront the person responsible for Sal's death but also embodies the strength and fortitude she has developed throughout her journey. Pip's resilience is evident in her willingness to face the harsh realities of the case and her refusal to back down, despite the personal and emotional toll it takes on her.

### **3.2.3.3 Personal Growth and Self-Discovery**

Pip's journey through each stage of Vogler's Hero's Journey leads to profound self-discovery and personal growth. Initially propelled by her curiosity to unravel the murder mystery, Pip embarks on a quest that forces her to confront her fears, doubts, and limitations. As she progresses through the stages, she undergoes a transformative inner journey, gaining deeper insights into her character and motivations, as quoted: . . . *"She couldn't say the words aloud and listen as her best friend's world changed forever, as it turned dark and strange. Pip wished she was strong enough, but she'd learned that she wasn't invincible; she too could break."* (Jackson, 2019:294) . . . Throughout the investigation, she faces numerous challenges that test her physical, emotional and mental limits. This quotation shows that Pip's inner conflict reflects a crucial realization in her journey: the acknowledgement of her vulnerability and limitations. Through this experience,

Pip learns that she is not invincible and is susceptible to emotional strain and uncertainty, a realization that prompts her to confront her vulnerabilities and limitations.

This moment of self-awareness marks a significant step in Pip's journey of self-discovery, as she comes to understand herself more deeply and confronts the complexities of her own emotions and capabilities. It highlights the transformative nature of Pip's journey as she navigates through moments of introspection and growth, ultimately emerging with a deeper understanding of herself and her place in the world. By recognizing her fragility, Pip gains a profound sense of empathy and resilience, allowing her to connect more authentically with others and face her challenges with greater clarity. This acknowledgement not only humanizes her but also strengthens her resolve, underscoring the emotional and psychological depth of her character development.