

2015 specification
(first exams in 2017)

Characters: Ebenezer Scrooge

Scrooge is described as being Marley's sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole agent, his sole rescuer, his sole friend, and his sole mourner. (Stave One) The inclusion of the word 'friend' implies that Scrooge had closer feelings than most people had for Marley.

Scrooge is visited by four ghosts which all help to change his attitude towards the poor, a topic that was close to Dickens' heart having experienced poverty first-hand. First is the ghost of Christmas Past, then the Ghost of Christmas Present and finally the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Key Event 8: Scrooge's Death and Tiny Tim's Death

How do people feel about his death?

How do people treat his grave?

How does life continue after his death?

How do people remember him?

How do people feel about his death?

How do people remember him?

How does life continue after his death?

How do people treat his grave?

How does life continue after his death?

| Point and quotation about Scrooge's death | Point and quotation about 'Tiny Tim's death | Analysis |
|---|---|----------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

A Christmas Carol

Mind Maps and Activities for GCSE English Literature

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Mind Maps are provided in both A3 and A4 formats

Teacher's Introduction

This resource is made up of 20 mind maps covering the plot summary of the text, key events, characters, themes, writer's use of language, form and structure, and context. Each mind map has a blank version for students to complete with ideas for content as well as a completed version. There are tasks provided throughout as well as ideas for extension research. A timeline of Dickens' life is also included in addition to a timeline task for students to complete.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

This resource can be used in class or set for home learning. The activities are differentiated for students of all abilities. The tasks cover the assessment objectives for each exam board.

This resource meets the specifications for GCSE English Literature as examined by AQA, Edexcel, Eduqas, OCR and WJEC¹.

| | |
|-----|--|
| AO1 | Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response• use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations |
| | Student-friendly version: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should be able to show that you understand the texts. You can do this by writing about them in detail. You should also use quotations to evidence what you say.• This AO is detailed throughout the resource. |
| AO2 | Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate. |
| | Student-friendly version: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should pay attention to the way the writer uses language to get their meaning across. You should also pay attention to the structure of the text and why the writer has structured it in the way that they have. You should know the terms for the different techniques the writer uses.• There is a specific section for 'Writer's Use of Language'; however, it is also detailed throughout the resource. |
| AO3 | Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written. |
| | Student-friendly version: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should understand the context of the text – the history of the time and the author's attitudes to what was happening.• There are specific sections for 'Dickens Timeline' and 'Context'; however, it is also detailed throughout the resource. |
| AO4 | Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. |

¹ Please note that the assessment objectives for WJEC differ from other exam boards. Go to https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/#tab_keydocuments for more details.

Dickens Timeline

1812
Charles John
Huffman
Dickens is born
on 7th February
1812 to John
and Elizabeth
Dickens.

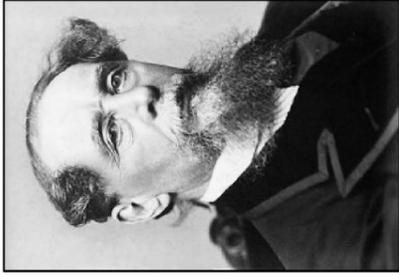


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Dickens Timeline



1824

The family struggles with debt, and Dickens (along with his mother and younger siblings) is sent to Marshalsea debtors' prison. Dickens has to work in a factory gluing labels on pots to provide money to support the family. His early experiences of working life clearly have an impact on his later attitudes and can be seen in his writing.

1812
Charles John Huffman
Dickens is born on 7th February 1812 to John and Elizabeth Dickens. John Dickens works as a clerk at the Navy Pay Office.

Extension research

Research Thomas Malthus and think about how Dickens uses the characters in *A Christmas Carol* to show his attitudes towards Malthus' ideas.



Key fact!

Ragged schools were a charitable initiative for extremely poor children during the 1800s, where they would be given food, clothes and somewhere to sleep as well as an education.

1832

Dickens' first published work – a fictional sketch. He is commissioned by *Montagu's Magazine* to write more sketches for publication.

1834

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 states that the able-bodied cannot receive assistance unless they enter a workhouse. This Act is referenced a number of times in *A Christmas Carol*.

1843

In September of 1843 Dickens visits the Field Lane Ragged School – an area of significant poverty. *A Christmas Carol* published on 19th December 1843.

1827
After a few months in debtors' prison, Dickens' father inherits some money and Dickens is sent to a private school for two years.

1824
Dickens takes a job as a clerk in a solicitor's office.

1837
Dickens marries Catherine Hogarth, and his first novel, *Pickwick Papers*, is generalised.

1848
Queen Victoria comes to the throne. The first of Dickens' 10 children is born.

1848
Dickens' last Christmas book, *A Christmas Carol*, is published.

Extension research

Research Dickens' life experiences and think about how these experiences and attitudes would have been shared in his writing.

Things you could research:

- his education
- his family's debt
- his jobs
- his charity work



Key term: novella

A novella is a short novel or a long short story. *A Christmas Carol* is a novella.

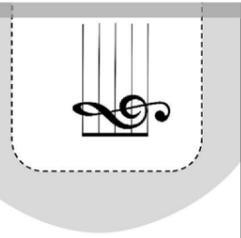
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Plot Summary

Task 3
A Christmas Carol is divided into five staves. For each staff, write the main events which happen and three quotations.



Stave One main events:



Stave Two main events:

Stave One quotations:



Stave Two quotations:



Stave Five main events:



Stave Four main events:

Stave Five quotations:



Close analysis extension task

Choose an extract (1 stave) from each staff and write a close analysis of the extract. Remember to track the writer's use of language and techniques to create meaning.



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Plot Summary

Stave One main events:

- On Christmas Eve, Scrooge and Bob Cratchit are still working.
- Scrooge does not want to spend Christmas with his nephew and two gentlemen arrive to donate money for the poor, but Scrooge refuses. The theme of poverty and Dickens' attitude is clear here.
- Scrooge is visited by the ghost of Jacob Marley, who warns Scrooge to change his ways.



Stave Two main events:

- The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge some of his past Christmases.
- We see Scrooge's reaction to his sister Fan, Fred's mother.
- Scrooge is shown himself as an apprentice to Fezziwig and how Fezziwig treated his workforce.
- Scrooge sees Belle breaking up with him and then with her own family.



Stave One quotations:

'a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!'

'Are there no prisons?'

'I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry.'

'If they would rather die... they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.'



Stave Two quotations:

'A solitary child'

'[Scrooge] wept to see the poor forgotten self as he used to be.'

'[Fezziwig] tried to render us happy or unhappy; to make us see the light or burdunsome'

showed me to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now'

'A golden one'

'You were not what you are'

'Why do you delight to torture me?'



Stave Five main events:

- Scrooge wakes up in his bed on Christmas Day.
- He wishes everyone Merry Christmas.
- He buys the Cratchits a turkey.
- He gives money to the charity collectors from Stave One.
- He goes to Fred's for Christmas dinner.
- He raises Bob's salary and promises to help his family.



Stave Four main events:

- The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge people's uncaring reaction to his death.
- Scrooge sees how much he missed Tiny Tim is after his death.
- Scrooge promises to change.



Stave Five quotations:

'I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man.'

'I don't know anything. I'm quite content.'

'Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious! Glorious!'

'A great many back payments are included in it'

'I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family.'



Stave Four quotations:

'I hope to live to be another man from what I have been.'

'He resolved to treasure up every word he heard.'

'The only emotion that the Ghost could show him was that of pleasure.'

'I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I have been.'

'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.'



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Key Event 1: Scrooge is Introduced

The novella starts with a light-hearted tone when describing that Jacob Marley is dead. Find three quotations which show this.

-
-
-



What is the effect of having a light-hearted tone before Scrooge is introduced?

'Let it also be borne in mind that Scrooge had not bestowed one thought on Marley, since his last mention of his seven years' dead partner that afternoon.' (Stave One)

How does this sentence create a sense of foreboding?



Key term: pathetic fallacy

A technique that writers use when they give human qualities or emotions to something that isn't human.

Dickens uses pathetic fallacy when he describes Scrooge using weather imagery.

Scrooge is rude to a number of characters at the start of the novella. Make a list of all the people he is unpleasant to.

-
-
-
-

Ebenezer Scrooge

A prediction or feeling of what's to come, especially something bad.

Key term: foreboding

Extension activity



Why is foreboding an effective technique for Dickens to use in the novella?

Think about:

- Dickens' intended purpose and effect for the text
- Scrooge's character
- The symbols Dickens used to create foreboding

Pathetic fallacy

Scrooge's house is described as 'a lowering pile of building which had once belonged to his deceased partner' (Stave One)

The cold wind whistled about the eaves of the house, and the snow lay on the ground in a soft, white blanket.

Externally, Scrooge's house was warm, but internally, it was a cold, dark, and gloomy place. The snow, which had once belonged to his deceased partner, now lay on the ground in a soft, white blanket.

Scrooge's house is also a reflection of his personality.

Read the quotation from Stave One below and annotate what it reflects about Scrooge's character.

He lived in a house which had once belonged to his deceased partner. It was a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building which had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancy that it had been put up for the purpose of being a hiding-place for some one who must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and forgotten the way out again. It was old and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and the snow hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.

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Key Event 1: Scrooge is Introduced

'I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, that he is dead, but what there is particularly peculiar about his death, is that there is no doubt that Mr. Marley is dead. This must be distinctly understood, or never wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate.'



'Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did.'

The light-hearted tone before Scrooge is introduced emphasises the contrast in tone when Scrooge appears, as his frostiness is at odds with the more jovial tone. This mirrors the effect that Scrooge has on other characters. It also makes the opening seem more like a fairy tale to accentuate the magical nature of Jacob Marley's ghost appearing.

'Let it also be borne in mind that Scrooge had not bestowed one thought on Marley, since his death, for his seven years' dead partnership.'



Scrooge has not thought a moment's thought of his only friend since his death, which highlights how solitary as an oyster' Scrooge has become. As Scrooge has not thought about Marley, it comes as more of a shock when he sees Marley's face in the door knocker. Similarly, the emphasis on him being dead reinforces the magical element in the novella, which ultimately brings about Scrooge's transformation.

Scrooge lives completely by himself as the rest of the building is used for business. This emphasises his loneliness and also shows how, for him, there is no division between work and the rest of life.

Key term: pathetic fallacy
A technique that writers use when they give human qualities or emotions to something that isn't human.

Dickens uses pathetic fallacy when he describes Scrooge using weather imagery.



Pathetic fallacy
The cold, shrivelled blue; a his head temper and di

- Scrooge is unpleasant to:
- Bob Cratchit
 - Fred
 - Charity collectors
 - Carol singers

'Evil' Ebenezer Scrooge



Extern warm, he, no less op heavie. advant hands

Scrooge carries reflect empha serves the im

He lived in chambers with a single room, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had been his business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run their way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.

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Key Event 2: The Ghost of Jacob Marley Warns Scrooge

Scrooge is afraid. Find quotations which show this fear.



How does this contrast with Scrooge's previous behaviour? How might this foreshadow how Scrooge will change?

Scrooge went to check all of his rooms:

"The parlour, the bedroom, the lumber-room. All as they should be. Nobody under the tree; nobody under the sofa; a small fire in the grate; spoon and basin ready; and the little saucepan of gruel (Scrooge had a cold in his head) upon the hob. Nobody under the bed; nobody in the closet; nobody in his dressing-gown, which was hanging up in a suspicious attitude against the wall. Lumber-room as usual. Old fire-guard, old shoes, two fish-baskets, washing-stand on three legs, and a poker." (Stave One)

What effect does this have on Scrooge? What effect does this have on the reader?

Towards the end of Stave One, Jacob Marley's ghost tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts. "Without their visits," said the ghost, "you had not hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first to come on the morrow."

What is the effect on the reader of knowing in advance who will visit Scrooge?

Extension activity

Marley's chain is made up of his negative behaviours.

- What negative behaviours make up Scrooge's chain?
- What positive behaviours will be on Scrooge's chain at the end of the novella?

Jacob Marley

Jacob Marley, like Scrooge, was obsessed with making money. This obsession and the lack of compassion it brought with it now haunt Marley and will also haunt Scrooge if he does not change his ways. Write two quotations (one in each of the bubbles) which show how Marley is haunted by his obsession with money.

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Key Event 2: The Ghost of Jacob Marley Warns Scrooge

'To say that he was not startled, or that his blood was not conscious of a terrible sensation to which it had never before been a stranger from infancy, would be untrue.'

'He did look cautiously before him, as if he half-expected to be terrified with the sight of Marley's pigtail sticking out into the hall.'

Previously, Scrooge was dismissive of others and very self-sufficient. Now he is afraid and seeks comfort from the ghost. He also tries to make jokes to make himself feel less scared. It shows how Scrooge's attitude has already started to change, which foreshadows the larger transformation to come.

Towards the end of Stave One, Jacob Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts:

'Without their visits,' said the Ghost, 'you cannot shun the path I tread.'

The reader can concentrate on what lessons the ghosts will teach Scrooge. This makes Scrooge's transformation more complete because at the end of each stave, the reader knows that there will be more ghosts visiting Scrooge.

'It is doomed to wander through the world—oh, woe is me!—and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and to witness to happiness!' (Stave One)

Scrooge does this in order to reassure himself that he is alone. It is not entirely successful as it draws his attention to everything which is out of place, such as the dressing gown in a 'suspicious attitude' (Stave One). The repetition of 'nobody' serves to highlight that Scrooge is not with another person, while also hinting at the fact there is a spectral presence which is about to make itself known again.

Jacob Marley



Jacob Marley, Scrooge's partner, was obsessed with making money. This obsession, and the lack of compassion it brought with it now haunts Scrooge, and will also haunt Scrooge if he does not change his ways.



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Key Event 3: The Ghost of Christmas Past

Draw what you think this ghost looks like. Find two quotations which describe its appearance.



What does this ghost sound like? Find two quotations which describe its voice.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

Does the reader's opinion of Scrooge change after this ghost has visited him? Does the reader feel any more or less sympathy for Scrooge? Write two quotations (one in each bubble) which reflect how the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of this stave.

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Key Event 3: The Ghost of Christmas Past



- 'It was a strange figure—like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man' (Stave Two)
- 'from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible' (Stave Two)



- 'The voice was soft and gentle' (Stave Two)
- 'Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance.' (Stave Two)



The Ghost of Christmas Past

Scrooge does not want to relive the painful memories and tries to extinguish the light of this ghost: 'Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright'

The reader may be sympathetic to Scrooge's pain.

How the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of the stave.

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Key Event 4: The Reader Sees Scrooge's Past

Scrooge's childhood



Task 4

Scrooge is shown experiences from his childhood, with his sister (Fan), his boss (Fezziwig) and his fiancée (Belle). In each of the boxes on this page write down what the vision is and how Scrooge reacts to it.



Scrooge's past

Scrooge's fiancée, Belle



Extension Questions



Which memory do you think has the greatest impact on Scrooge, and why?

- Do you feel sorry for Scrooge at any point in this stave? Explain why / why not.
- How do you think these memories have shaped Scrooge's character into the man we meet in Stave One?
- Choose one of the memories and think about how Scrooge could have been shaped by it in a positive way rather than in a negative way. You could imagine you're Scrooge and create a dialogue with a partner about your ideas.

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Key Event 4: The Reader Sees Scrooge's Past

Scrooge's childhood

Scrooge was left at school at a young age. *'A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.'* (Stave One)

He cries when he sees this, and the 'softening' influence of this memory contrasts with Scrooge's hardness in Stave One.

Scrooge's fiancée, Belle

Scrooge loved Belle but let his love for money become more important to him than his fiancée.

'Another idol has displaced me' (Stave Two)
Scrooge is upset to see Belle with another man. *'What he has missed out on.'*



Scrooge's past

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Key Event 5: The Ghost of Christmas Present

Draw what you think this ghost looks like. Find two quotations which describe its appearance.



What does this ghost sound like? Find two quotations which describe its voice.



The Ghost of Christmas Present

Does the reader's opinion of Scrooge change after this ghost has visited him?
Does the reader feel any more or less sympathy for Scrooge? Write two quotations (one in each bubble) which reflect how the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of this stage.



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Key Event 5: The Ghost of Christmas Present

its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air' (Stave Three)

- *"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in! and know me better, man!"* (Stave Three)



- *'there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see'* (Stave Three)
- *'bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge'* (Stave Three)



The Ghost of Christmas Present



The reader is reminded of the harshness of Scrooge's attitude towards the poor: *'Are there no workhouses?'* (Stave Three) ... makes Scrooge see ...



the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of the stave.

Scrooge ... and W ... *appalled'* ... how sh ... ext ...

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“But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!” (Stave One)

Christmas as transformative

Dickens saw Christmas as having a transforming power on society and being a positive force for change. Look at the quotation on the left, which is spoken by Fred when he visits Scrooge to invite him for Christmas dinner. Write three sentences to summarise Fred’s attitude to Christmas and use words from the quotation in your answer.

“Belle’s family is described thus: ‘The joy, and gratitude, and ecstasy! They are all indescribable alike. It is enough that by degrees the children and their emotions got out of the parlour, and by one stair at a time, up to the top of the house; where they went to bed, and so subsided.’ (Stave Two)

“‘Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice.’ (Stave Two)

A joyful Christmas

Read through these descriptions of characters enjoying Christmas. What do they have in common? What could Dickens have been saying about the Christmas spirit?

Scrooge starts to be transformed by the spirit of Christmas. Read through how he reacts to the ghost showing him the different scenes of people enjoying Christmas. Write at least one quotation for each which demonstrates how Scrooge is starting to change.

Scrooge’s childhood:

“Belle: _____
Fezziwig: _____”

“The Ghost of Christmas Present is described as having a ‘cheery voice’ and a ‘joyful air’. (Stave Three)

“‘Martha didn’t like to see him disappointed, if it were only in joke; so she came out prematurely from behind the closet door, and ran into his arms, while the two young Cratchits hustled Tiny Tim, and bore him off into the wash-house, that he might hear the pudding singing in the copper.’ (Stave Two)

Extended research

When *A Christmas Carol* was published, Dickens became synonymous with Christmas – in fact, he became known as the father of Christmas.

At the time, Christmas celebrations had been in decline, and Dickens is credited with bringing them back.

Why do you think Christmas celebrations were declining at the time? Think about the context of the novella.

Research the link between Dickens and Christmas and think about how important the novella was then, and still is today.



Key Event 6: The Spirit of Christmas

“But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred origin, if anything belonging apart from that—as a good-forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!” (Stave One)

Christmas is a time when all of humanity comes together for the benefit of helping the poor: *‘to think of people below them.’* It is also a time of greater equality as people focus on the important aspects of life, such as love and friendship, rather than money and greed: *‘fellow passengers to the grave.’* The Christmas spirit is beneficial to those who embrace it even though there is no monetary gain from it: *‘I believe that it has done me good.’*



Scrooge starts to be transformed by the spirit of Christmas. Read through how he reacts to the ghost showing him the different scenes of people enjoying Christmas. Write at least one quotation for each which demonstrates how Scrooge is starting to change.

Scrooge's childhood: “Nothing,” said Scrooge. “Nothing. There was a boy singing a Carol at my door last night. I like to have given him something—that’s all.” (Stave Two)

Belle: “Remove me!” Scrooge exclaimed, “I cannot bear it!” (Stave Two)
“Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!” (Stave Two)

Scrooge: “My heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self. He corroborated everything, remembered everything, enjoyed everything, and underwent the strangest agitation.” (Stave Two)

Belle’s family is thus: *‘The joy, and and ecstasy! They indescribable alike that by degrees their emotions go parlour, and by o time, up to the top where they went subsided.’* (Stave

The Ghost of Christmas Present is described as having a *‘cheery voice joyful air’*. (Stave Th

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Key Event 7: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

Draw what you think this ghost looks like. Find two quotations which describe its appearance.



What does this ghost sound like? Find two quotations which describe its voice.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

Does the reader's opinion of Scrooge change after the ghost has visited him? Does the reader feel any more sympathy for Scrooge? Write two quotations (one in each bubble) which reflect how the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of this stave.

Questions to discuss in groups

- What impression does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come have on Scrooge?
- How does Scrooge react to the ghost?
- Imagine you haven't read the whole text – at the end of Stave Four, what do you think Scrooge will do next? Give reasons for your answer.

Extend

Which ghost do you think Scrooge should include in his list? Back up the point with evidence from your answer.

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Key Event 7: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come



- *'It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.'* (Stave Four)
- *'it was tall and stately'* (Stave Four)



Scrooge pleads with the ghost that it is not too late for him to change his ways: *'Why show me this, if I am past all hope?'*

This shows that Scrooge has been deeply affected by what he has seen.

- *'The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached'* (Stave Four)
- *'The Spirit answered not, but pointed onward with its hand'* (Stave Four)

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come



How the reader feels about Scrooge by the end of the stave.

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Key Event 8: Scrooge's Death and Tiny Tim's

Task 5

Dickens uses a contrast between Tiny Tim and Scrooge to show how different their characters are. This is emphasised by their deaths. Fill in the bubbles below then complete the comparison table.

Key term: contrast
A difference.

Scrooge's death

How do people feel about his death?

How do people treat his grave?

How do people remember him?

How do people treat his death?

How do people's lives continue after his death?

Point and quote from the text about Tiny Tim's death

| Point and quotation about Scrooge's death | Point and quotation about Tiny Tim's death |
|---|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |

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Key Event 8: Scrooge's Death and Tiny Tim's

How do people feel about his death?

Nobody mourns Scrooge's death. People are only interested in financially gaining from his passing, such as the woman who steals the shirt off his back: 'He frightened everyone away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead! Ha, ha, ha!' (Stave Four)



How do people treat his grave?

Nobody comes to tend to Scrooge's grave. It is 'overrun by grass and weeds'. Money does not benefit Scrooge in death. He is buried in an area which 'choked up' (Stave Four) with many other graves.



How do people remember him?

He is remembered fondly. Joe, who takes the blankets from Scrooge, is only concerned that he is not in danger of catching anything infectious from the blankets. There is no respect for Scrooge: 'I hope he didn't die of anything catching?' (Stave Four)



Scrooge's death

How does life continue after his death?

Life continues exactly the same after Scrooge's death. He did not have a family or friends and so nobody is negatively affected by his death. In fact, some people are positively affected.

How do people feel about Tiny Tim's death?

Bob is grieving for Tiny Tim. He is worried that he will not be able to remain in the rest of his life because he broke down (Stave Four)

How do people treat his death?

Tiny Tim is buried somewhere (Stave Four), which represents his energy and growth.

Point and quotation about Scrooge's death

Nobody mourns Scrooge's death: 'He frightened everyone away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead!' (Stave Four)

There is no respect for Scrooge's memory: 'I don't die of anything catching?' (Stave Four)



Scrooge's grave is 'overrun by grass and weeds' (Stave Four)

Point and quotation about Tiny Tim's death

Bob is grieving for Tiny Tim's death: 'He broke down all the time' (Stave Four)

Tiny Tim is still an important part of the Cratchit family, even after his death: 'But however and whenever we part from one another, I am sure we shall none of us forget poor Tiny Tim' (Stave Four)

Tiny Tim is buried somewhere 'green' (Stave Four)

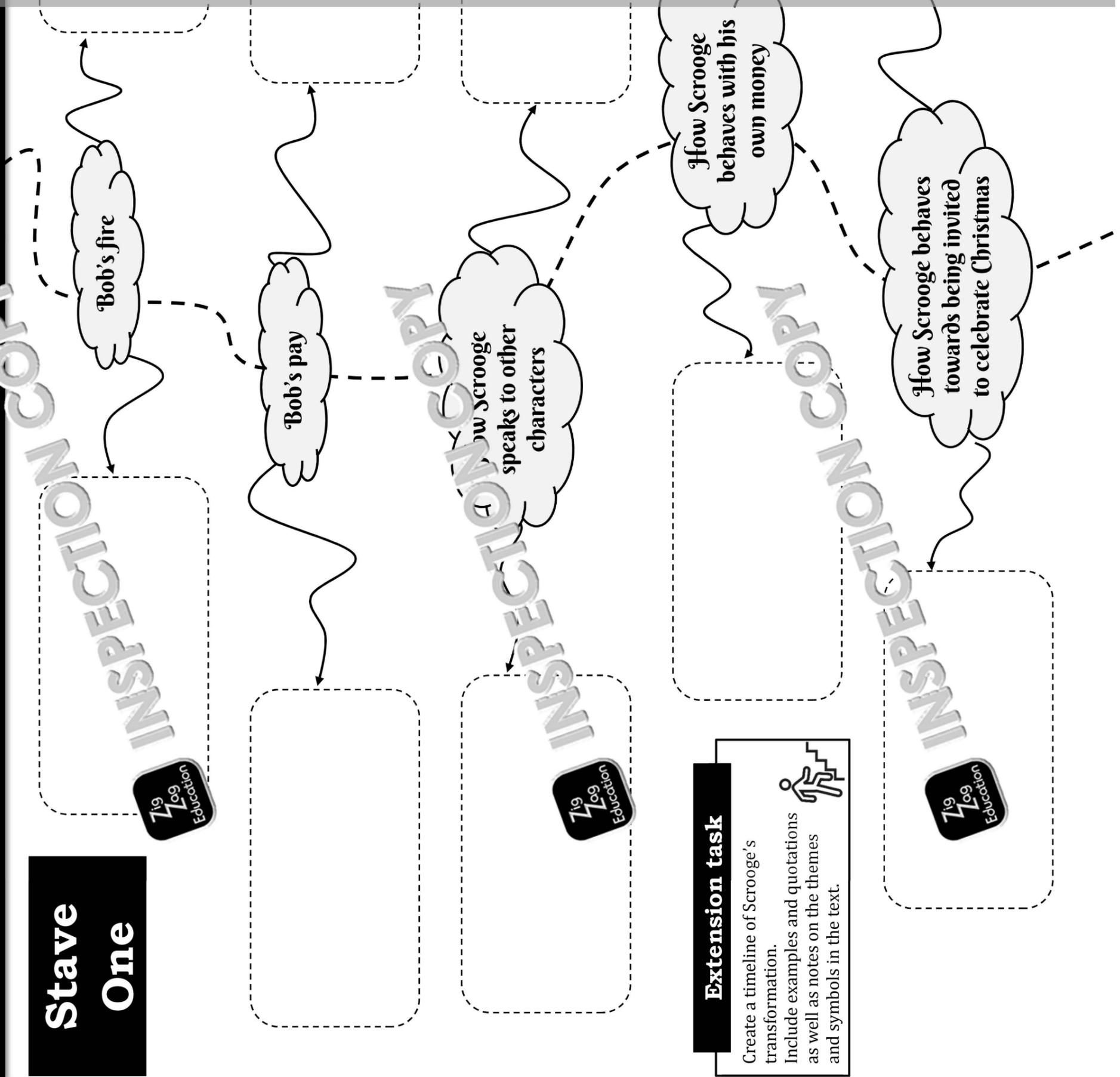
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Key Event 9: Scrooge is Transformed

Stave One



Extension task

Create a timeline of Scrooge's transformation.
Include examples and quotations as well as notes on the themes and symbols in the text.



Key Event 9: Scrooge is Transformed

Stave One

Scrooge does not want to pay Bob but he has to pay for the 'fire' at work.

Bob's fire

Scrooge does not think he should have to pay Bob over the Christmas period.

Bob's pay

Bob from

Scrooge is rude and short-tempered with all the characters he encounters.

How Scrooge speaks to other characters

Scrooge ch w sp



Scrooge does not want to give his money away to anyone and is rude to the charity collectors. He enjoys counting his money but not spending it.

How Scrooge behaves with his own money

Scrooge does not want to invite anyone to Christmas with him. He would rather spend Christmas by himself.

How Scrooge behaves towards being invited to celebrate Christmas

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Characters: Ebenezer Scrooge

Dickens uses Scrooge's transformation to show the reader the positive impact on society which would be created if people in power were more considerate of how they treated the poor. Write three bullet points which show how Scrooge's behaviour in the novella Bob Cratchit improves the lives of all the Cratchits.



...as _____
...hand at the grindstone,
Scrooge! A squeezing,
wrenching, grasping,
scraping, clutching,
covetous old _____!
(Stave One)

By the end of the novella 'His own heart _____',
(Stave Five), which shows the alteration in his character.

“ ”

Ebenezer Scrooge changes completely from the beginning of the novella when he is miserable and isolated to the end of the novella when he realises the error of his ways and becomes more generous in spirit. Write two short diary entries as if you are Ebenezer Scrooge: one from the start of the novella and one from the end. Try to capture the character and use the same language which he does. You can use some of the quotations on this page to help you.

Task 7

Ebenezer Scrooge



Fill in the gaps in the quotation bubbles.

He is the protagonist of the novella and experiences a dramatic change in his character and attitude. At the beginning, Scrooge is described using words which emphasise how cold he is: *'The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.'* (Stave One). Can you see quotations on this page which describe Scrooge more positively?

Each of the three Christmas ghosts offers different ways to teach Scrooge lessons. Using the quotations below as a starting point, write one paragraph for each ghost describing how the ghosts teach towards Scrooge and what lessons they teach him.

Ghost of Christmas Past

- 'a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire' (Stave Two)
- 'another idol has displaced me' (Stave Two)
- 'from the crown of its head there sprang a bright, clear light' (Stave Two)



Ghost of Christmas Present

- '...there are no prisons?' (Stave Three)
- 'beware this boy [Ignorance] for on his brow I see that written which is Doom' (Stave Three)
- 'jolly Giant, glorious to see' (Stave Three)

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Characters: Ebenezer Scrooge

- Scrooge gives Bob Cratchit a pay rise, which means that he can better support his family.
- Scrooge buys all the Cratchit family a turkey, which allows them to enjoy a proper Christmas meal.
- Scrooge becomes like a 'father' (Stave Five) to Tiny Tim, which implies that he will help Tim as much as he can.

By the end of the novella 'His own heart laughed' (Stave Five), which shows the alteration in his character.

Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! (Stave One)

Scrooge is described as being Marley's 'sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and sole mourner.' (Stave One) The inclusion of the word 'friend' implies that he may have had closer feelings for Marley than simply a business associate. Similarly, Scrooge 'never painted out Old Marley's name' (Stave One), which could suggest that he misses his friend.

Diary from start of novella:

Bah! Humbug! All this talk of Christmas depresses me. Such a waste of time and effort: time and effort which could be put to better use earning money. I will be spending Christmas in my counting-house – no! I wish Bob was working; he's poor enough, you would not think he could afford to spend time with his family and not working.

Diary from end of novella:

A feast! A feast! What a delicious dinner! Never have I enjoyed a meal so much. This has brought me more joyable Christmas than I have ever spent: excellent food and an excellent company. Ah, if only I had known the wonders of Christmas before, I would have celebrated it like this every year. From this day forward I pledge that I will use my money for good. It is no good it sitting collecting dust in a lifeless vault.

Task 7

Ebenezer Scrooge

Each of the three Christmas ghosts will teach Scrooge different lessons. Using the text below as a starting point, write one lesson describing how the ghosts behave to teach him, and what lesson they teach him.

Ghost of Christmas Past

How this ghost behaves towards Scrooge:

This ghost makes Scrooge relive some of his past Christmas experiences. It speaks in a 'low' voice, as if it is talking to Scrooge across time. It is also very nostalgic, making Scrooge relive his childhood.

What lesson this ghost teaches Scrooge: This ghost helps the reader to sympathise with Scrooge by explaining some of the reasons why he behaves as he does. It also shows how Scrooge has not always behaved this way and could therefore change.

Ghost of Christmas Present

How this ghost behaves towards Scrooge:

This ghost is compassionate and generous. It shows Scrooge what is happening to poor children and how Scrooge is partly responsible for this through his ungenerous attitude.

What lesson this ghost teaches Scrooge: This ghost argues that when people like Scrooge ignore the poor, they are dooming all of society.

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Education

Characters: Jacob Marley

The introduction of Jacob Marley scares Ebenezer Scrooge. Why do you think Scrooge is afraid? Think about Marley's appearance, his language, his reason for visiting Scrooge. Write a paragraph to explain Scrooge's fear and include at least three quotations to support your ideas. Use some of the ideas in the space below.

Task 8

Marley is described as being very similar to Scrooge – they are *'two kindred spirits'* (Stave One). In what ways are these two characters the same? Complete the bullet points below.

-
-
-
-

Key term: abstract noun
Nouns describe people, places and things.
Abstract nouns describe ideas, qualities and feelings, e.g. love, courage, fear.

Marley uses abstract nouns like *'chance'* and *'hope'* (Stave One) to help the reader predict what will happen in the novella?

'death-cold eyes' and his *'dropped upon'* (Stave One)

Jacob Marley is Scrooge's former business partner. Why do you think Dickens decided to use a business associate rather than a friend or relative of Scrooge? What does this show about Scrooge's character?

Jacob Marley is surprised that Scrooge's past comes back to him and his behaviour at the end of the novella.

Jacob Marley cannot find a way to help Scrooge during his life. Write a short dialogue between Jacob Marley and Ebenezer Scrooge.

The narrator repeats that Marley is *'dead'*. Why do you think Dickens does this?

Before Marley's ghost arrives, some strange things happen in the house. Describe the event and describe the effect it has on Scrooge.

| Event | Quote |
|---|-------|
| Marley's face appears in the door knocker. | |
| The house echoes and the sounds are disorientating. | |
| Scrooge cannot see very far ahead of him. | |

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Characters: Jacob Marley

Scrooge is afraid because he knows that Marley is dead and yet his spirit is very much present in Scrooge's rooms. Marley has been sent to warn Scrooge and this also scares Scrooge because he could very easily suffer the same awful fate as Marley if he does not change his ways. Marley's appearance, with the cash boxes and chains, is rather startling and reinforces that Marley is suffering because of how he behaved when he was alive.

Jacob Marley / Ebenezer Scrooge

- Scrooge responds to both 'Scrooge' and 'Marley' – 'it was all the same to him' (Stave One)
- Scrooge signed the register of burial for Marley
- Scrooge was Marley's 'sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and his sole mourner' (Stave One)
- Scrooge lives in 'chains and padlocks which had once belonged to his deceased partner' (Stave One)

Task 8



Key term: abstract noun

Nouns describe people, places and things. Abstract nouns describe ideas, qualities and feelings, e.g. love, courage, fear.

Using abstract language is a direct contrast to the concrete language used in talking to Bob. The contrast shows how much Marley is feared and accentuates the huge changes which Scrooge will have to make if he wants to avoid the same fate as Marley. The contrast is also tie in to some of the key themes of the novella, such as redemption and the Christmas spirit, which both rely on more abstract ideas of friendship and love, than the harsher realities of counting money, which Scrooge is concerned with at the start.

“... his eyes and his jaw dropped upon his breast” (Stave One)

Scrooge does not really have any friends to speak of. The fact that the character closest to him is his business partner emphasises that all Scrooge cares about is business and money, rather than relationships.

Jacob Marley

- Scrooge only had seven years at the time of Marley's death. He did not made any other friends.
- Scrooge does not have any friends. He is a counting-house worker in a dismal little cell by himself.
- Scrooge makes Scrooge very lonely.
- Scrooge puts money on his festive activities: 'every year should be boiled with his heart. He should have some relief' (Stave One)

December, 1843
Scrooge is my only friend. I know I have paid to do so. I know I have now paying the price of his own free will. We try to warn him of his situation. We also have some relief' (Stave One)

In order for the reader to understand why Scrooge is so distant in appearance, they need to know that Marley has been dead for seven years. This helps to set the scene for the arrival of the other ghosts, because Marley is being visited by a number of different apparitions, with Marley being the first.

Before Marley's ghost arrives, Scrooge is very nervous. Write a quotation and describe the event.

| Event | Quotation |
|---|---|
| Marley's face appears in the door knocker. | 'It was not a face, but looked a face.' |
| The house echoes and the sounds are disorientating. | 'The sound of the door was through the thunder' (Stave One) |
| Scrooge cannot see very far ahead of him. | 'Darkness is all round him. Scrooge like' |

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Characters: The Cratchit Family

The Cratchit family are important in the novella as they show the difficulties of living in poverty. How does Dickens show poverty? Find quotations to support your answer.

-
-
-
-



“Scrooge had a very small _____, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one _____. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter _____ to warm himself at the _____.”

Some readers think that Tiny Tim is the strongest character in the novella and some readers think that Tiny Tim is the weakest character in the novella. What do you think? In pairs, debate which side you agree with. One person should think he is the strongest, and the other person should think he is the weakest. Think of at least three points to make about your opinion and include a quotation for each point you make.

“His active little crutch was leaning upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken.” (Stave Three)

“Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much” (Stave Three)

Questions to ask

- What impact does...
- How does Scrooge...
- How does the little...
- What impact does...

Bob Cratchit provides a link between the Cratchits and Scrooge because he is Scrooge's clerk. How does Dickens describe Bob? You could think about how he is described with his family and how he is described at work.

Family man:

Employee:

The Cratchits

Fill in the gaps in the adaptation

The Cratchits are poor but industrious as they are also old enough to work outside the home. What message do you think Dickens is conveying?

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Characters: The Cratchit Family

- 'Bob had but fifteen 'Bob' a-week' (Stave Two)
- 'their shoes were far from being water-proof' (Stave Two)
- 'His threadbare clothes shone like the sun, and he had, to look seasonable' (Stave Two)
- 'Its tenderness and fluffiness were the result of being baked in the oven, and its cheapness... Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potato' (Stave Two)

Family man: Bob is loved by his family and shows great love for them. He is happy when he is with his family.
Employee: Bob doesn't complain about the poor conditions he works in. He seems afraid of Scrooge.

“Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at 'his candle' (Stave One)

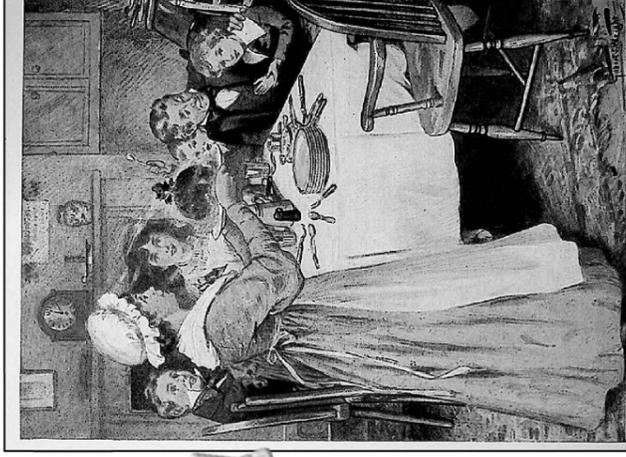
The Cratchits



“His active little crabs were heard upon the floor, as they came Tiny Tim before the other word was spoken.” (Stave Three)

Some points you may have made:
Tiny Tim is cheerful despite his disability. He brings pleasure to those around him. He wants to do good in the world. He represents hope. He is a victim of his circumstances. He is likely to die. His name shows how small and frail he is.

“Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much” (Stave Three)



THE CRATCHITS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

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Education

Minor Characters: Fred and Belle

Fred is an important contrast to Scrooge. There is irony in the fact that the two are family yet they are so different. Contrast the characters of Fred and Belle by completing the table, adding any missing information in the table.

| Point | Quotation | Explanation |
|---|--|--|
| | <p><i>"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited"</i> (Stave One)</p> | |
| Fred is happily married whereas Belle breaks off her engagement to Scrooge. | | <p>Even though Scrooge refuses his invitation each year, Fred doesn't give up on his uncle. This shows his kind and generous nature which is at odds with Scrooge's unforgiving attitude to everything and everyone.</p> |

How does the Ghost of Christmas teach Scrooge a lesson about his treatment of Fred?

How does Scrooge react to what the Ghost of Christmas Past shows him?

Fred

Belle

2. 'A golden one'
(Stave Two)

Belle had been engaged to Scrooge but broke off the engagement. What do we learn about Scrooge from this? Discuss each of the quotations, paying attention to the language and what it tells us about Scrooge. Make sure you are discussing their implications.

1. 'Another idol has displaced me'
(Stave Two)

6. 'A room, not very large or handsome, but full of comfort'
(Stave Two)

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Minor Characters: Fred and Belle

Fred is an important contrast to Scrooge. There is just one difference between them that they are family yet they are so different.

| Point | Quotation | Explanation |
|--|--|--|
| Scrooge places great importance on money, whereas Fred believes that profit can come from other sources. | <i>"The more things I might have derived good, by which I have not profited"</i> (Stave One) | This shows Fred's generous and positive nature in comparison to Scrooge's miserly ways. Fred is generous in the way he speaks, using lots of words, whereas Scrooge uses only what is absolutely necessary; for example, in the little coal he uses on his fire. |
| Fred is happily married whereas Belle breaks off her engagement to Scrooge. | <i>'Because I fell in love'</i> (Stave One) | Scrooge clearly shows that he doesn't believe in love in his response to Fred, finding it ridiculous. Fred shows that he is a more open and hearted here in comparison to Scrooge's being 'contained and solitary as an oyster' (Stave One). |
| Fred doesn't give up on family even though Scrooge seems to want nothing to do with him. | <i>'I was born a man, and I as long as I can, I will be a friend to my friends.'</i> (Stave One) | Even though Scrooge refuses his invitation each year, Fred doesn't give up on his uncle. This shows his kind and generous nature which is at odds with Scrooge's unforgiving attitude to everything and everyone. |

The Ghost shows Scrooge how much he loves a child. She shows Scrooge kindness when others do not. He is 'uneasy', obviously about how he treats Fan. Fan is shown to be like Fred and positive – and Scrooge is making the connection for the first time, perhaps feeling how he has treated Fred.

Fred

Belle

2. 'A golden one' (Stave Two)

- An idol is something that is worshipped, but Belle is saying here that she's no longer the most important thing to Scrooge.
- Belle is saying that the idol she has replaced her is 'golden', meaning money. She says that it's the most important thing to him.
- Belle shows that Scrooge is ruled by fear – the fear of being poor. She says that she will do anything to prevent him from having any hopes or dreams except not being poor as he had other things like family and love.
- It shows us that Scrooge's fear of poverty hasn't always been the case. At one point he was just how much Scrooge changes in this quotation. Belle thinks that different person from who he was when they were first together.
- We see Belle's family home after she is married to someone else. It is made clear that the room is not large or handsome – but she has everything she needs to be happy.

1. 'Another idol has displaced me' (Stave Two)

6. 'A room, not very large or handsome, but full of comfort' (Stave Two)

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Key Themes: Redemption/Poverty

Fill

Christmas is key to Scrooge's redemption. Why do you think that Dickens decided to link the two themes together? Write your ideas with a partner and complete the table below or your own ideas. You could use the quotations on this page to help you, but remember to try to add your own.



“
I will honour _____
in my heart’ (Stave Five)

Redemption



“
‘A merry Christmas, Bob...
I’ll raise your _____
(Stave Five)

Throughout the novella, money is linked with power. How does Dickens use money as part of Scrooge's redemption? Find quotations which show Scrooge's attitude towards money at the start of the novella and at the end.



The Cratchits are a happy family despite Scrooge is miserable at the beginning. What relationships show between wealth and happiness? Write your ideas about how Dickens communicates his ideas about poverty and society.

Poverty and society

Children of poverty
Ignorance and
decisions
this

“
‘This boy is _____
This girl is _____
(Stave Three)

Extension task

Write about what Dickens is trying to say about poverty. Use examples and evidence from the text to back up what you say.

Include:

- Dickens' attitude to poverty
- Dickens' own experience of poverty
- The context of the problem



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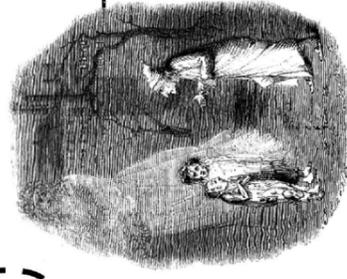
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Key Themes: Redemption/Poverty

Christmas is portrayed as being a time of goodwill to offer those more fortunate in society to help those who are less so. At the start of the novella, Scrooge thinks that there is no need to celebrate Christmas as foolish and pointless; but by the end of the novella, he when he wakes up on Christmas Day and fully embraces the celebration. Scrooge fully embraces the celebration and buys the Cratchits a very large turkey. Dickens may have linked the idea of redemption and Christmas together in order to reflect his view of Christianity. During the nineteenth century, Christmas became more important as a Christian celebration and was strongly associated with charity, generosity and forgiveness. By Scrooge becoming increasingly generous, Dickens emphasises the redemptive power of the Christmas spirit. However, Dickens also stresses that this change should not just occur at Christmas as Scrooge says he will '*honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year*' (Stave Five).

Scrooge has valued wealth above all else. Scrooge does not view this as a problem, particularly when he sees Belle again. Scrooge's change. Dickens shows that being wealthy is valued over everything else. Scrooge has very little money but they have a lot of love. Dickens shows how all of society is affected by Scrooge's actions. For example, when Scrooge returns home to his family. Conversely, when Scrooge returns to work, his family is affected. Dickens therefore very directly links Scrooge's actions to the happiness of his family. Wealth is not a guarantee of happiness.



By describing the effects of poverty on the poor, Dickens empathise with their plight and shows that they are victims of their own society. They are victims of a society that does not care for them. Scrooge, help them. Dickens shows that society needs to offer any help by giving them a chance to grow up to be adults and shape how society will be much poorer. Dickens' message that society needs to change.

At the start of the novella Scrooge's wealth gives him a lot of power, which he uses to control others and not help them. For example, he refuses to allow Bob to have a slightly larger fire in his 'cell' (Stave One) because of the expense. He also refuses to accept any responsibility for helping the poor by not giving to charity and rebutting with '*Are there no prisons?*' (Stave One). He views the poor in society as people who are lazy and undeserving of help. At the end of the novella, however, Scrooge's attitude changes. He realises that he can make and how he can help the Cratchits by becoming 'a second father' (Stave Five) and raising Bob's salary. Scrooge begins to accept responsibility for the power and the privileges which his wealth affords him in society.

Some things you may write about:

- Dickens clearly believed that poverty was a problem that everyone should be paid to solve.
- Scrooge's fear of poverty emphasises the importance of charity.
- Dickens knew first-hand what it was like to be poor.
- How Ignorance and Want symbolise the two greatest evils of society.

You should also discuss:

- The Poor Law
- The workhouse

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Key Themes: Family / Christmas Spirit

The Cratchits are described as being a happy family who enjoy spending time together. Use the quotations in the speech bubble on the right to discuss how Bob Cratchit relishes his family. Contrast this with Scrooge's family. Does this show about the Cratchits?

“... home to Camden Toward as hard as he could pelt” (Stave One)
“Oh what a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit regarded it as her greatest...” (Stave Three)

The theme of Christmas
message being the
What do you think
Which characters
they do so?

“I think he's walked a little
... than he used to”
(Stave Four)

Family

Bob Cratchit is devastated when Tiny Tim dies. This is a complete contrast to how Scrooge is remembered after his death. Write two obituaries: one for Tiny Tim and one for Scrooge. Think about how each character would be described.

Christmas spirit

Fred explains his attitude towards Christmas with his family.
Contrast Fred's attitude towards the season.
How does Scrooge's attitude towards Christmas differ from Fred's?

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Key Themes: Family / Christmas Spirit

Scrooge's isolation does not bring him happiness. At the start of the novella, he has been by himself for so long that he is almost as if he has always been that way. However, when he and the reader journey back into his past, it is clear that this is not the case. Scrooge reacts with great sadness when he says that 'another idol' has displaced her. By contrast, Bob has invested all of his time and energy - and the small amount of money that he has - in his family. This brings him great joy, and the Cratchits are very close with each other. Despite their poverty, they are very happy.

Dickens' idea of Christmas
Dickens believes that Christmas is a time for:

- Charity - shown by people who help those in need
- Abundance - shown by the rich helping the poor
- Family - shown by people spending time with their loved ones
- Gratitude - shown by people appreciating what they have
- Celebration - shown by people enjoying the festive season



Fred's attitude towards Christmas
Fred believes that Christmas is a time to be joyful with lots of people, and that everyone should celebrate. Fred doesn't question Scrooge's attitude.

Scrooge's attitude towards Christmas
Scrooge doesn't celebrate Christmas. He is left alone at school over Christmas. Scrooge does not spend time when more money is spent and generosity is wasteful.

How Scrooge's attitude towards Christmas changes
In Stave Five, Scrooge shows a change in attitude. He shows sympathy for the Cratchit family and buys the Cratchits a turkey for Christmas Day. He also attends church and enjoys the festive season.



Scrooge's obituary

As Scrooge was 'solitary as an oyster', nobody really knew him, and as such his obituary would be brief and fairly general. Those who he did interact with would not regard him highly. He was mostly rude to them.

Tim's obituary

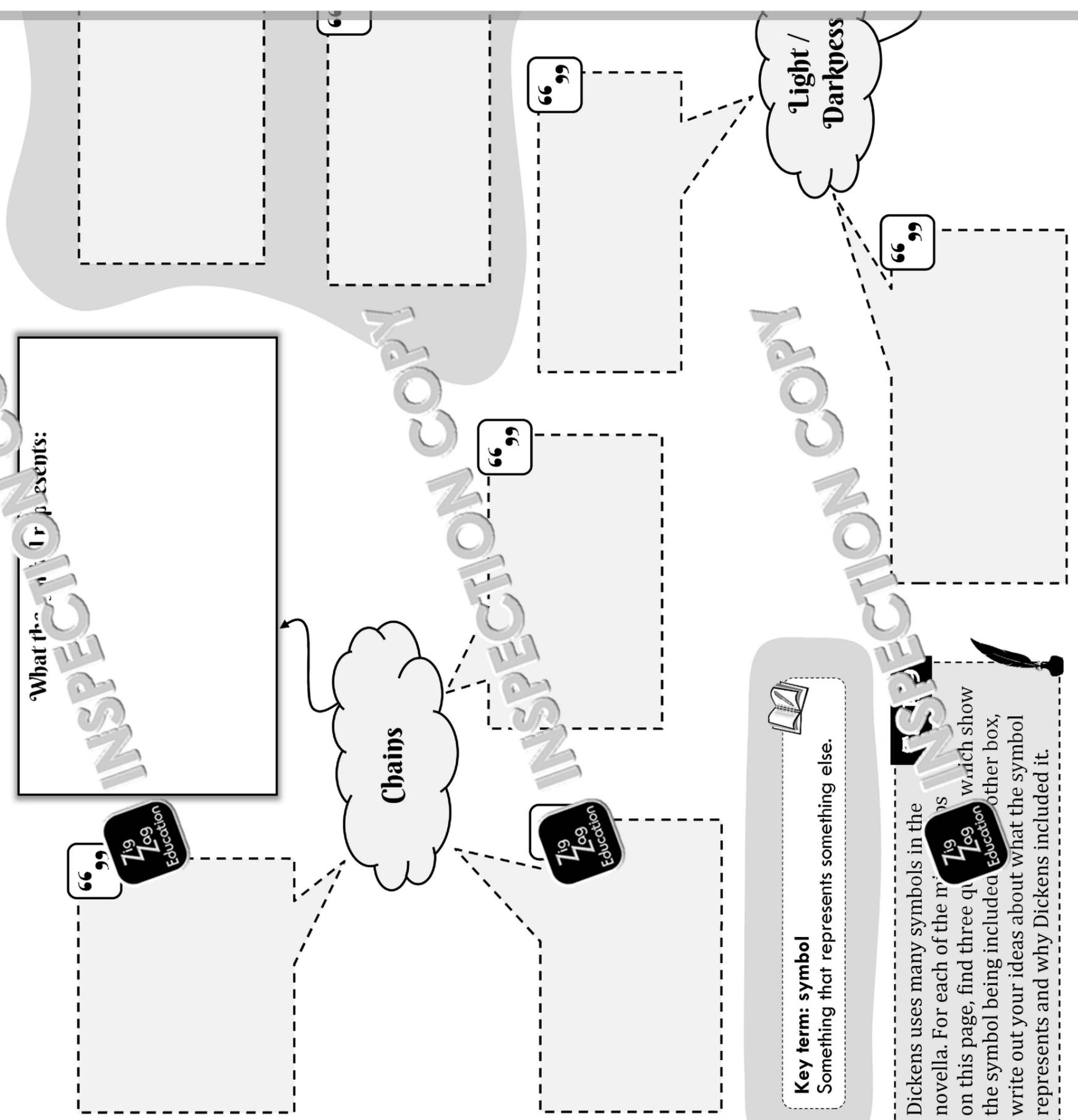
Tim brought joy to the Cratchit family. He was regarded very highly of him, and he would be remembered warmly and with great affection.

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What the text represents:



 **Key term: symbol**
Something that represents something else.

 Dickens uses many symbols in the novella. For each of the symbols on this page, find three quotations the symbol being included. In the other box, write out your ideas about what the symbol represents and why Dickens included it.

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Writer's Use of Language

“I wear the chain I forged in life,” replied the Ghost. “I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it.” (Stave One)

Marley is not being in fact that he made it by his own 'free will' (Stave One) emphasises how he is paying in the present for his past behaviour.



Chains

“The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long and wound about him like a tail” (Stave One)

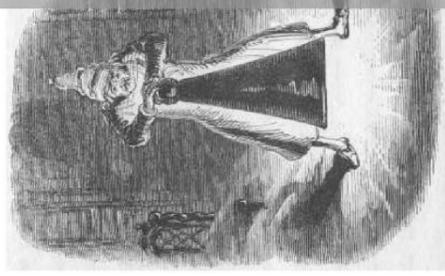
“it was (described closely) of cast-iron boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel.” (Stave One)

“Fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room you would desire to see upon winter's night.” (Stave Two)

“blew the fire, until the slow potatoes bubbling up, knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out peeled.” (Stave Three)

“bright, clear jet of light” (Stave Two)

Light / Darkness



“when the faded, looked bright in the bright rays of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.” (Stave Three)

The examples on this page are just some of the quotations and reasons which students could include. There are numerous others.

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Zig Zag
Education

Form and Structure

The novella is divided into five chapters, which are the staves. The structure of the novella is key to showing how Dickens uses language. In the staves below, write down how each staff begins and ends. This will show the changes Scrooge goes through.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Staff One</p> <p>Begins</p> <p>Ends</p> | <p>Staff Two</p> <p>Begins</p> <p>Ends</p> | <p>Staff Three</p> <p>Begins</p> <p>Ends</p> | <p>Staff Four</p> <p>Begins</p> <p>Ends</p> |
| <p>Staff One</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the beginning</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the end</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> | <p>Staff Two</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the beginning</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the end</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> | <p>Staff Three</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the beginning</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the end</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> | <p>Staff Four</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the beginning</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> <p>What Scrooge is like at the end</p> <p>Quotation:</p> <p>Analysis:</p> |

Discuss with a partner

Thinking points:

- Why do you think Dickens decided to name his chapters staves?
- Why do you think he called the novella a 'carol'?

What is the effect of this on the reader?

Write about the way Dickens has used the character of Scrooge. Remember to make with quotations from the text.

You should write about:

- the structure of the text
- the character of Scrooge
- the language Dickens uses to get his message across
- Dickens' intended message and how it is conveyed
- how Scrooge relates to the themes of the novella

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Form and Structure

Stave One

Begins

'Marley was dead: to begin with.'

Ends

'And being, from the emotion he had undergone, or the fatigue of the day, or his glimpse of the Invisible World, or the dull conversation of the Ghost, or the lateness of the hour, much in need of repose; went straight to bed, without undressing, and fell asleep upon the instant.'



Stave Two

Begins

'When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark that he could hardly distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber.'

Ends

'He gave the cap a parting squeeze, in which his hand relaxed; and had barely time to reel to bed, before he sank into a heavy sleep.'

Stave Three

Begins

'Awaking in the middle of a prodigiously tough snore, and sitting up in bed to get his thoughts together, Scrooge had no occasion to be told that the bell was again upon the stroke of One.'

Ends

'As the last stroke ceased to vibrate, he remembered the prediction of old Jacob Marley, and lifting up his eyes, beheld a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.'

Begins

'The Phantom silently, approached'

Ends

'Holding up his prayer to heaven, he saw an alteration in the hood and drapery, and it dwindled away'

Stave One

Scrooge at the beginning

Quotation: 'solitary as an oyster'

Analysis: Scrooge is not social in any way. There is no one like Scrooge, and Dickens is emphasising that he isn't someone we should want to be like.

Scrooge at the end

Quotation: 'He tried to say, "Humbug!" but stopped at the first syllable.'

Analysis: Already we see a change in Scrooge. He has been scared into it at this point.



Stave Two

Scrooge at the beginning

Quotation: 'he had a special desire to see the Spirit in his cap; and begged him to be covered with it.'

Analysis: This is the first time of dark in the text. Scrooge is unwilling to see the Spirit here.

Scrooge at the end

Quotation: 'I cannot bear it'
Analysis: Scrooge begins to show emotion in this stave. He is saddened by his past and we see that he has been shaped by his past experiences.

Stave Three

Scrooge at the beginning

Quotation: 'I learnt a lesson which is worth thinking now'

Analysis: At the midpoint of the text, Scrooge acknowledges that he is on a learning journey.

Scrooge at the end

Quotation: 'Have they no refuge or resource?'

Analysis: There is a direct link to Stave One here, but this time Scrooge is shocked to see such poverty and shows emotion when faced with the consequences of it.

Scrooge at the end

Quotation: 'I am another man'

Analysis: In Scrooge shows that he is frightened and resolved to change.

Scrooge at the end

Quotation: 'I am in my heart, the year.'

Analysis: Scrooge has learned a lesson that he will teach all of us.

Discuss with a partner

The staves relate to the fact that Dickens called his novella a 'carol'. Staves are the lines that musical notes are written on.

Musical notes develop in stages, just like Scrooge does.

Perhaps Dickens wanted to convey a sense of joy and happiness, just like a carol. Carols also bring people together.

The staves are repetitive in that they mostly end with Scrooge in his own state of mind, either awaiting the arrival of the Spirit or having been redeemed. The repetition of the same words and phrases causes the disorientation of the novella and also provides a familiar environment which helps to accentuate the other events of the novella. The focus is on the ghosts and Scrooge's reactions to them.



Some points you may include:

- The text is cyclical – it begins on Christmas Eve in the morning, Staves Two, Three and Four only happen towards the poor.
- Dickens shows us how our past, present and future are interconnected.
- Scrooge's development through each stave is cyclical.
- Dickens makes it clear that Scrooge is not someone who is inherently evil, but someone whose character and we should do something about it.
- Poverty is the clear theme running throughout the novella.
- Poverty is the clear theme running throughout the novella, and Dickens shows us that we should be more aware of the social issue, and Dickens shows us that we should be more aware of the social issue.
- Scrooge shows us the worst and most dangerous aspects of himself.
- Scrooge's development shows us that it's possible to change.

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Context

Scrooge's attitude to the poor



Scrooge

Quotation and analysis

“ ”

Quotation and analysis

“ ”

Quotation and analysis

Thomas Malthus was an economist who, in 1798, wrote that the human population would increase so fast that the amount of food we could produce would not be enough to feed everyone. Therefore, there would always be overpopulation and people dying from famine. He said that if we had fewer children and thought that the existing population in England which helped poor people were too generous.

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Fill in the gaps:

Dickens' intention in *A Christmas Carol* is to encourage people to have _____ spirit _____ throughout the year, particularly to _____ need.

Dickens was particularly passionate about the plight of _____ people, _____ experienced poverty first-hand. _____ an example of a family who are struggling.

Dickens believed that poverty was _____, who _____ children and remain in poverty. _____ that helping poor people only encouraged them to _____ attitudes that Dickens was against. Through him we clearly see the power that _____ with money have over those _____ it.

_____ clearly shows the belief that the poor should have fewer _____, the Cratchits are a demonstration _____ of the working man. He has a large family and struggles to make ends meet.

In contrast to _____ belief that the poor should have fewer _____, the Cratchits are a demonstration _____ and gracious family, despite the hardship they face.

They clearly show poor people to be valuable human beings, a message at odds with the ideas of _____.

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