

GCSE Edexcel Literature

19th Century Novel

‘A Christmas Carol’ by Charles Dickens

Stave 1 and 2 only



Name:

Teacher:

Contents

<u>Lesson Enquiry</u>	<u>Page numbers</u>
1. What can you recall about the life of Dickens and the era in which he lived?	Pg. 4-7
2. What was the importance of the supernatural in Victorian society?	Pg. 8-10
3. What happens in a 'A Christmas Carol' and how does Dickens tell this story?	Pg. 11-13
4. What is a preface and what do we learn about Dickens' authorial intention through it?	Pg. 14-16
5. Who is Jacob Marley?	Pg. 18-20
6. Who is Scrooge and how is he introduced to the reader?	Pg. 21-25
7. How does Dickens initially present the character of Scrooge?	Pg. 26-28
Bookmark : Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract.	Pg. 29
8. What does the setting further reveal about Scrooge's character and treatment of others?	Pg. 30-32
9. Who is Fred and how does Dickens portray his character?	Pg. 33 -37
10. What do we learn about Scrooge's character through his interaction with the Portly Gentleman?	Pg. 38-42
11. How does Dickens build tension before the arrival of Marley's Ghost?	Pg. 43-46
12. Why does Marley's Ghost visit Scrooge and what can the reader learn from this pivotal event?	Pg. 47- 51
Stave 1 Review	Pg. 52
13. How is the Ghost of Christmas Past presented?	Pg. 54-57
14. How is Scrooge's childhood presented?	Pg.58-61
15. How is Fezziwig presented?	Pg. 62-64
16. How is the Christmas spirit conveyed in the novella so far?	Pg. 65-68
Additional exam question	Pg. 69
17. Who is Belle and what do learn about Scrooge through this scene?	Pg. 70-73
Stave 2: Review	Pg. 74
Key Characters	Pg. 75
Knowledge Organiser	Pg. 76

What will I need to do in

the exam?

You will be assessed on 'A Christmas Carol' at the end of Year 11 as part of **Paper 2**.

You will complete a **two-part question** for 'A Christmas Carol' (very similar to 'Romeo and Juliet')

Part a) is focused on the **close language analysis** of an extract (AO2). The extract will be approximately 400 words.

Part b) is focused on how a **theme, setting or character from the extract is explored elsewhere in the text**. (AO1)

Students must:

AO1

Read, understand and respond to texts

Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

AO2

Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate

Recommended resources to help you

Resource	Link
Full text online	https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Dickens/Carol/Dickens_Carol.pdf
Abridged audio book	https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-a-christmas-carol-index/zbp9bdm
Film online (Disney)	See Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+
Short animated summary of the story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGckMxRq6yE

1. Charles Dickens and Victorian Britain

LE: What can you recall about the life of Dickens and the era in which he lived?

Charles Dickens lived during the Victorian era.

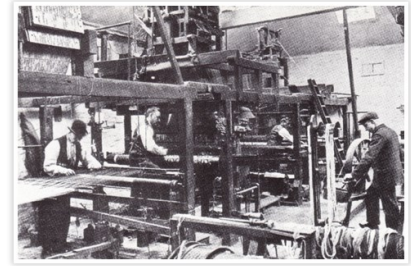
What can you remember about life in Victorian Britain?

<p>1. Which monarch ruled Britain during this era?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Queen Elizabeth Ib. Queen Elizabeth IIc. Queen Victoriad. Queen Anne <p>2. When did the Victorian era begin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 1937b. 1837c. 1901d. 1890 <p>3. What revolution took place during the Victorian era?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Industrial revolutionb. The French revolutionc. The Russian revolutiond. The Cyber Revolution <p>4. What was NOT invented in the Victorian era?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The steam engineb. Photographyc. Electric light bulbd. Television <p>5. During the Victorian era, large numbers of people moved to the...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The countrysideb. The coastc. Abroadd. The cities <p>6. During the Victorian era, the gap between the rich and poor...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Increasedb. Stayed the samec. Decreasedd. Is unknown <p>7. Which of these is NOT true about factory life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Workers work up to 16 hours per dayb. All workers were paid a fair wagec. Children worked in factoriesd. Many accidents took place	<p>8. Which job was NOT given to children?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Train driverb. Chimney sweepc. Domestic servantd. Coal miner <p>9. What job did Charles Dickens do as a child? He was a...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Chimney sweepb. Coal bearerc. Street sellerd. Factory worker <p>10. If you became destitute, where would you be forced to go?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Schoolb. The workhousec. The job centred. Seek help from a rich person <p>11. Towards the beginning of the Victorian era, how did many Victorian upper classes view/treat the poor?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. They took pity on themb. They believed the poor were responsible for their own situationc. They provided food and shelter for poor childrend. They thought the Church should help them <p>12. What law introduced in 1834 meant that more people were forced to go to the workhouse?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The Dickens Actb. The Education Actc. The Poor Lawd. The Chimney Sweep Act <p>13. Dickens tried to help the poor through raising awareness about their situation and providing support for those who needed it. He is therefore considered...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. An angelb. A philanthropistc. An misanthroped. An author
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Victorian Britain: Key points

The Industrial Revolution

- The Victorian era was an age of transformation and innovation.
- The Industrial Revolution was in full swing by the time 'A Christmas Carol' was published in 1843.
- The growth of large factories in cities meant that people flocked from the countryside into urban areas in search of work and a better life.
- Transport links were improved with the building of canals and the invention of the steam train.
- Mechanisation, especially in textile manufacture, also enabled cloth and other products to be sold cheaper in Britain than anywhere else in the world.
- This was a time of unprecedented growth, for towns and cities and for the country's economy.
- Britain changed from a largely agricultural economy to a manufacturing economy.



The Poor in Victorian England

- In Victorian England, the majority of people were poor and many were **destitute**.
- The average life expectancy at this time was 29.
- Many wealthy Victorians believed that the poor were lazy and had no sympathy with them. Others were very concerned about the **plight of the poor**, Dickens among them.
- Large parts of towns and cities would have been overcrowded, often with 20 people or more from several different families living in four rooms.
- There was no running water, electricity, gas or inside toilets. There would often be one or two outside toilets per street. Water was from a water pump, but even so it was often contaminated.
- There were no sewers as such, so effluent would run down the middle of the street and eventually make its way into the nearest river.
- Infant mortality was common, so although families had lots of children, many of them would not survive until adulthood. In 1840, a third of children died before their 5th birthday.
- There was no state education, so many poor children were not taught how to read or write.
- Huge numbers of children were sent to work, from as young as five or six.

Destitute—state of being extremely poor, often without shelter or food.

Plight of the poor—terrible situation faced by the poor



The Poor Law of 1834

- Each parish had to look after its own poor. Money or clothing and food was given out to the poor, or if they were desperate, poor people could go into the workhouse.
- In 1834, the Poor Law was introduced. This law stated that money and clothing could no longer be given out. The poor had to go into the workhouse or receive no help.

Charles Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843.

What do you remember about this famous Victorian author and his life?

Charles Dickens Recall



Your knowledge of Dickens is about to be tested! Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks below. Beware some words are there to trick you! Then write the answers in the spaces provided.

articles	Factory	twelve	Christmas	Victorian	writers
poverty	Prison	shorthand	Dickensian	1564	Portsmouth
Oliver	1870	school	Elizabethan	Papers	Shakespeare

Charles Dickens is one of the most famous _____ authors. He was born in Landport, near _____ in 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. Two years later, his family moved to London and then on to Chatham, where Charles went to _____. The good fortune of being sent to school at the age of nine was short-lived because in 1821 his father fell into debt and was arrested. The entire family, except Charles, were sent to Marshalsea _____ along with their father. Charles was sent to work to earn money for the family in Warren's Blacking _____, where he made polish for boots, and endured horrible conditions. He was only _____ years old.

In the years that followed, Charles showed great determination to improve his life. He taught himself '_____', a style of writing, and eventually he became a newspaper reporter in London. He also started to write _____ for magazines, using the pen name 'Boz'. His stories were very popular.

His terrible experience at the blacking factory haunted him all of his life: in his stories, he often wrote about _____ and the hard social conditions experienced by many people living in London at that time. This theme is given the name _____. The first of his many successful novels was *The Pickwick* _____, which was published in 1837. He also wrote _____ *Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield* and *A* _____ *Carol*.

In 1837, Charles married Catherine Hogarth, and they had ten children! Charles Dickens died on 9th June _____. His books have become recognised as 'classics', and he is famously known as one of Britain's greatest ever _____.

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812, and spent the first nine years of his life living in Kent, a county in southeast England. Dickens' father, John, was a kind and likable man, but he was **financially irresponsible**, piling up **tremendous debts** throughout his life. When Dickens was nine, his family moved to London. At twelve, his father was arrested and sent to debtors' prison. Dickens' mother moved seven of their children into prison with their father but arranged for Charles to live alone outside the prison, working with other child labourers at a **hellish job** in a blacking factory.



The three months Charles spent apart from his family were severely traumatic. He viewed his job as a miserable trap - **he considered himself too good for it, stirring the contempt of his worker-companions**. After his father was released from prison, Dickens returned to school, eventually becoming a **law clerk**. He went on to serve as a **journalist** before taking his place as one of the most popular English novelists of his time. At age 25, Dickens completed his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, which met with great success. This started his career as an English literary celebrity, during which he produced such masterpieces as *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield*, and *Oliver Twist*.

Dickens' books were originally published in monthly parts, and Dickens created each episode just in time to be published, so he could not go back and change anything, but had to plot it all out in his mind. He wrote professionally and raised himself and his family out of poverty through the popularity of his writing. Dickens wrote his books to **challenge injustice and expose the impact of poverty in 19th century London**. He also spent a great deal of his life engaged in acts of **philanthropy** including setting up schools to provide basic education for poor children.

Philanthropy

Meaning: (n.) The act of supporting the well-being of others, usually by giving money to good causes or charities.

Origins of the word: Early 17th century. Derives from the Greek, *philein* ('to love') and *anthropos* ('human being').

In context: Some wealthy Victorians did not believe in philanthropy.

Dickens' beloved novella *A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843, with the intention of drawing readers' attention **to the plight of England's poor**. In the tale, Dickens combines description of hardships faced by the poor with a heart-rending, sentimental celebration of the Christmas season. The calloused character of the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge, who opens his heart after being confronted by three spirits, **remains one of Dickens' most widely recognised and popular creations**.

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Where did Dickens spend the first years of his life?
2. Dickens' father is described as 'financially irresponsible'. What does this mean?
3. Dickens' father had 'tremendous debts'. What does this mean?
4. Where was Charles Dickens sent after his father was sent to prison? How is this experience described in the text?
5. Look in the second paragraph. What two jobs did Charles Dickens do before becoming a writer?
6. How old was Charles Dickens when he completed his first novel? What was it called? What did people think of it?
7. How were Dickens' stories published?
8. Why did Dickens write his novels?
9. What is philanthropy? Why can Dickens be considered a 'philanthropist'?
10. When was 'A Christmas Carol' written?
11. 'A Christmas Carol' draws attention to the 'plight of the poor'. What do you think this means?
12. 'A Christmas Carol' remains 'one of Dickens' most widely recognised and popular creations'. What does this mean?

2. Victorians and the Supernatural

LE: What was the importance of the supernatural in Victorian society?

Quick recap: Dickens and Victorian Britain

Complete the sentences below:

1. The Victorian era was a time of ...
2. The majority of people were
3. Many upper class Victorians viewed the poor as ...
4. Dickens wrote his novels to ...
5. During his childhood, Dickens faced...
6. Dickens is considered a philanthropist because..
7. The Poor Law in 1834 forced many poor people into ...

Challenge: Can you use the following words/terms in your answers?

Plight of the poor Destitute Transformation Inequality poverty Injustice

Victorians had a deep fascination in the supernatural. The **supernatural** is defined as the **existence of events or things that cannot be explained by science or nature**. These include ghosts or the ability to see into the future.

What else do you associate with the **supernatural**?



Supernatural

Why were Victorians so fascinated with the supernatural?

The Victorian era was a time of transformation. The Industrial Revolution led to rapid scientific and technological progress across Britain. New ideas were also emerging, leading some to challenge traditional notions of religion and politics. As such, Victorians became fascinated with the obscure and unconventional and this fed into an interest in the supernatural world. Many Victorians were prone to a belief in the paranormal and engaged in various activities to communicate with spirits.



It may seem odd that a society that was so influenced by science would also be so interested in ghosts. However, the technology invented in this era actually led to a rise in the belief in other-worldly beings. Most importantly, the growth of photography led to many strange and unusual photographs that fed into the belief that there was a life beyond the dead. Many photographs claimed to capture supernatural events that simply could not be explained by science.

Some people believed that these photographs were a hoax whilst others paid a fortune to have their photo taken with their dead ancestors.

Another important invention was the gas lamp. The Victorians were not used to the type of light and the eerie shadows it produced at first and therefore this led some to believe in the existence of spirits. The carbon monoxide emitted from gas lamps often provoked hallucinations. Many Victorians reported that they encountered ghosts in their daily lives—some claim it was real whilst others claimed it was merely a delusion.

A large number of Victorians sought to explore this fascination by trying to communicate with ghosts through seances. Seances are meetings held to communicate with the dead. They became a very popular past-time in the Victorian era amongst different social classes but particularly the upper classes. Queen Victoria herself is said to have engaged in seances to talk to her beloved husband, Prince Albert, after he died.



This preoccupation with supernatural became an important subculture that defined the Victorian age. Newspapers reported on supernatural events regularly, authors included spirits and seances in their novels to appease their readers and people hosted gatherings and parties purely to discuss the dead and even speak to them directly. The supernatural even fed into traditionally Christian festivals such as Christmas. Ghost stories became a popular festive tradition during this era. This may have influenced Charles Dickens writing of 'A Christmas Carol', a novella which included two Victorian favourites: the supernatural and Christmas.

Glossary

Obscure—strange

Unconventional— out of the ordinary, not considered normal

Prone –likely to do something

Paranormal— events or things that are beyond scientific understanding

Hoax—a trick

Hallucinations—when someone sees something that does not exist

Emitted—give out/produce

Delusion— a belief in something that is false or not rooted in reality

Séance—meetings held to communicate with the dead

Past-time—hobby

Subculture—a belief or interest in something that deviates from cultural norms

Appease—to satisfy

Novella— a short novel

Task: Answer the question in full sentences.

1. Write down two important changes that took place in the Victorian Era.
2. The Victorian era was a time of new ideas that challenged traditional religion. How do you think this contributed to belief in the supernatural?
3. List two inventions that may have contributed to a belief in the supernatural.
4. Some people thought the photographs were a 'hoax'. What does this mean? What does this tell us about society?
5. How did the gas lamp cause some to believe in the existence of ghosts?
6. What is a séance?
7. Who enjoyed seances in particular?
8. Why did so many authors include supernatural elements in their book?
9. What became a Christmas tradition?
10. Why do you think Charles Dickens included supernatural events in his novel 'A Christmas Carol'? List at least two reasons.

Task: Watch the video from 3.20-5.13 to consolidate and extend your knowledge of the supernatural in Victorian England. Note down anything else you learn.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xRonangfz0>

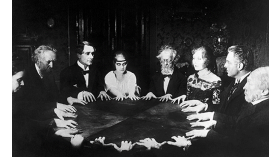
Q. What popular genre was Dickens influenced by?

Q. What are some of the common features of a Gothic novel?

3. Introduction to a 'A Christmas Carol'

LE: What happens in a 'A Christmas Carol' and how does Dickens tell this story?

Quick recap: Read the statements about the supernatural in the Victorian era. Are they true or false?



- 1) The Victorian era was a time of changing ideas. _____
- 2) Queen Victoria made the belief in ghosts a crime. _____
- 3) Photography contributed to a fascination and belief in the supernatural world _____
- 4) The mobile phone also contributed to a belief in the supernatural _____
- 5) All Victorians believed in the existence of spirits _____
- 6) Seances were books about the supernatural _____
- 7) Seances were a particularly popular amongst the Victorian upper classes _____
- 8) Authors tended to include supernatural elements in their novels to please Victorian readers _____
- 9) Telling ghost stories became an Easter tradition _____
- 10) Charles Dickens refused to include the paranormal in his novels _____

Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843. He wanted to write a good 'ghost' tale – a few scares, a few laughs, a few tears – to cheer up families around the fireplace during winter . He also had the intention of drawing readers' attention to the plight of England's poor, a recurring theme in much of his work.

In this lesson, we will look an overview of the plot of 'A Christmas Carol'. Before we do, we need to understand how the story is told. Read the following key terms and their definitions below.

Novella

‘A Christmas Carol’ is a novella. A novella is a short story. It usually centres around one or two characters and has only one plotline.

Omniscient narrator

'A Christmas Carol' is told from the perspective of an omniscient narrator. An omniscient narrator is an 'all-knowing, all-seeing' narrator who recounts the events in the third-person.

'A Christmas Carol'

A carol is a type of song sung at Christmas. Carols are often enjoyed and repeatedly sung together and this is perhaps why Dickens called his novel 'a carol'. He may have hoped it would bring people together, like a 'carol'.

Stave

The story is divided into five sections called 'staves'. A staff is a set of five horizontal lines on which musical notes are written. Dickens may have chosen to call his chapters 'staves' to reflect the title 'A Christmas Carol' with its musical connotations.



Simple Summary of 'A Christmas Carol'

Watch this to help you: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGckMxRq6yE>

Stave One

1. Introduced to the protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, on Christmas Eve. He is a cruel and selfish man obsessed with money. He won't pay to heat the office properly – meaning Bob Cratchit (who works for Scrooge) is very cold.
2. We learn Jacob Marley, Scrooge's business partner, died exactly 7 years earlier.
3. Scrooge is irritated that Christmas Day seems to be interrupting his business.
4. Scrooge is visited by his nephew Fred, who invites his uncle to Christmas dinner. Scrooge refuses.
5. Scrooge is visited by two charity workers, asking for donations. Scrooge refuses and exclaims he wants to be left alone.
6. Scrooge allows Bob to have Christmas Day off, but wants him to be back at work on Boxing Day.
7. Scrooge, when he is home, is visited by the Ghost of Jacob Marley – warning him he will be visited by three more ghosts to help him change his ways.

Stave Two

1. Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past who takes him to witness his past.
2. Scrooge is taken first to his schoolboy years and he is reminded how his friends would go home from Christmas while he was left at school.
3. We see him with his sister, who one year took him home for the holidays.
4. Next we are shown Scrooge as a young apprentice, working for Fezziwig. Dickens describes the Christmas ball Fezziwig organised for his employees.
5. Finally, Scrooge is taken to see his ex-fiancée, Belle. We see the scene when they break up, as money has taken over Scrooge's life. Scrooge cannot bear to see any more.

Stave Three

1. Scrooge is then visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present.
2. The spirit shows Scrooge how the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas. Scrooge asked if Tiny Tim (Bob's disabled son) will live. The spirit explains unless there are changes, he will die. The spirit reminds Scrooge of his earlier words: 'If he is to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population'
3. Scrooge is then taken to see how others celebrate Christmas: miners, lighthouse workers, sailors on a ship.
4. He is then taken to Fred's house at Christmas, where they are playing games.
5. The spirit then begins to age, and Scrooge sees under the spirit's robes two children: Want and Ignorance.
6. The Ghost of Christmas Future then appears.

Stave Four

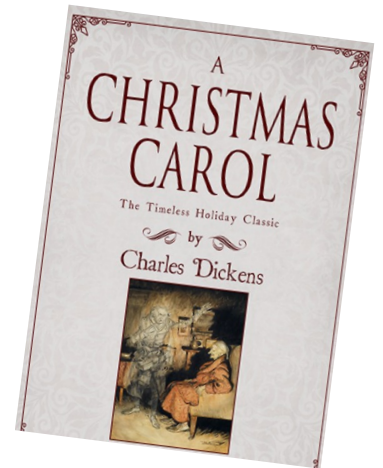
1. The Ghost of Christmas Future is described – he looks like the Grim Reaper.
2. The spirit takes Scrooge to see a group of businessmen discussing someone who has died.
3. Scrooge is then taken to see Old Joe, where he is in the process of buying property of the dead man – which have been stolen.
4. Scrooge then returns to Bob Cratchit's house, where it is revealed Tiny Tim has died.
5. Scrooge is then taken to the graveyard and is shown a grave stone and realises this is for him. Scrooge falls to his knees and begs that he will change his ways.

Stave Five

1. Scrooge wakes up in his own bed.
2. Scrooge wonders how much time has passed and calls to a boy. He then sends the boy to the poulterer for the prize turkey to give to Bob Cratchit.
3. Scrooge meets one of the charity collectors from earlier and whispers to him that he will give a large donation.
4. Scrooge then goes to Fred's house and is welcomed in. He enjoys the dinner and party.
5. On Boxing Day, Scrooge tells Bob he is going to raise his salary and promises to help Bob's struggling family.
6. Scrooge is described to have completely changed and becomes a 'second father' to Tiny Tim – 'who did not die.'

Task: Answer the question in full sentences.

1. What is a novella?
2. Who tells the story of 'A Christmas Carol'?
3. What is a 'carol'? Why might Dickens have called his novella, 'A Christmas Carol'?
4. The novella is divided into _____ sections.
5. What does Dickens call each section? **Challenge:** What connotations does this have?
6. The story begins on _____.
7. Who is protagonist of the novella?
8. How is the protagonist presented in Stave One?
9. Who is Scrooge visited by? **Challenge:** Why might Dickens have included these characters?
10. How is Tiny Tim? **Challenge:** Who might he represent in Victorian society?
11. How does the protagonist change by Stave Five?
12. Who might the protagonist represent in Victorian society?
13. What might Dickens be trying to teach the reader through his short novella?



Challenge: The story is set over the Christmas period. Why do you think Dickens set his novel at Christmas?

4. Writer's Purpose

LE: What is a **preface** and what do we learn about Dickens' authorial intention through it?

Recap quiz: Highlight or underline the correct answer

1. The story begins on....

- a. Christmas Eve
- b. Easter Sunday
- c. Bonfire Night
- d. Winter Solstice

4. The story is divided into...

- a. Staves
- b. Chapters
- c. Poems
- d. Scenes

2. An omniscient narrator is...

- a. Ebenezer Scrooge
- b. An all-knowing, all-seeing narrator
- c. A narrator who is unreliable
- d. Charles Dickens

5. The story is divided into how many sections?

- a. Three
- b. Five
- c. Six
- d. Two

3. Who is protagonist of the novella?

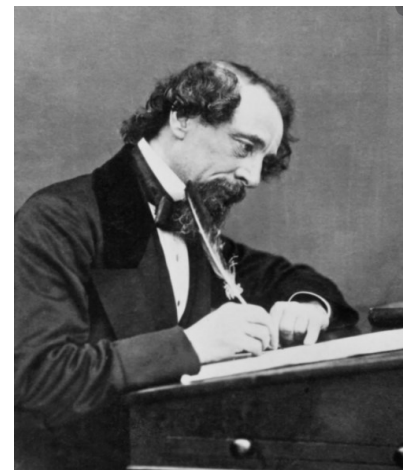
- a. Charles Dickens
- b. Ebenezer Scrooge
- c. Tiny Tim
- d. Jacob Marley

6. 'A Christmas Carol' tells the story of...

- a. Scrooge falling in love
- b. Scrooge slowly dying
- c. Scrooge's transformation
- d. Scrooge's debt

Charles Dickens begins 'A Christmas Carol' with a preface. A **preface** is an **introduction to a book, typically written by the author**. It usually **outlines the purpose of the book**. In the preface of 'A Christmas Carol', Dickens outlines two distinct purposes of his novella.

Using your knowledge of Dickens so far, what do you think they could be?



A **preface** is an **introduction to a book, typically written by the author.** It usually **outlines the purpose of the book.**

Preface

Tried

I have **endeavoured** in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant, C.D.

December, 1843.

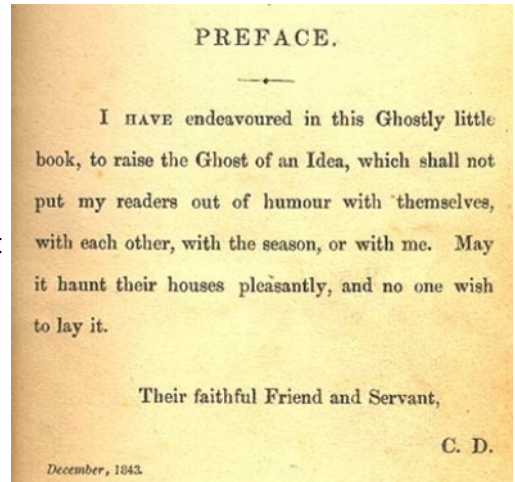


Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences

1. What is preface?
2. Who is C.D.?
3. Who is C.D. addressing in the preface?
4. Why does he call himself a 'faithful friend' of the reader?
5. Circle the words associated with the supernatural. Why do you think that Dickens includes them in the preface?
6. Dickens wishes to raise a 'Ghost of an Idea' in the novella that will 'haunt' them. What idea might Dickens want to stay with the reader?
7. Dickens says he does want to put his readers 'out of humour'. What does this mean?
8. In your own words, what do you think the two purposes of the novella, 'A Christmas Carol', are?

Dickens purpose

'A Christmas Carol' begins with a **preface**. A preface is an introduction to a book. The use of 'Ghostly' and 'Ghost' immediately suggests a tale linked to the supernatural which would have appealed to many Victorian readers. When he talks about a 'ghost of an idea', he is saying that he wants to offer his readers an idea which he hopes won't put them out of humour. The phrase 'little idea' makes the idea seem harmless. Additionally, Dickens wishes not to put his readers "out of humour", suggesting he wants his readers to enjoy the idea and the book itself.



However, this is ironic as although he says he is going to offer a "little idea", he believes this idea should live on and not be laid to rest, which means he wants his readers to think very carefully about it. In fact, he wants to teach and educate people through his book. In particular, he wants to teach his wealthier readers about the treatment of the poor and consequences of their selfishness and greed. Having experienced poverty himself, Dickens was keen to make other people understand how difficult it was to be poor he wanted them to consider what might happen if those with money were just a little more charitable. In sum, he wants to educate his readers but also entertain them.

Extending your vocabulary...

'A Christmas Carol' is often considered an **allegory**. An allegory is a **story which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political lesson**. 'A Christmas Carol' is an allegorical tale in that it features events and characters with a clear, fixed symbolic meaning that feed into Dickens overall purpose to educate and raise awareness about the unjust treatment of the poor in Victorian society.

Task: Complete the following sentences...

- Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' to teach his readers a moral lesson **because...**
- Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' to teach his readers a moral lesson **but...**
- Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' to teach his readers a moral lesson **so...**

Stave One

Marley's Ghost



5. Jacob Marley

LE: Who is Jacob Marley?

Quick recap: Think back to your last lesson and your reading of the **preface**.

1. In your own words, explain what a **preface** is.

A **preface** is _____

In Dickens' preface of 'A Christmas Carol', he outlines two intentions for the novella.

What are they?

1. _____

2. _____

Fill in the gaps with the words below:

'A Christmas Carol' is a _____ split into _____ sections. Each section is called a _____. The story is set on _____ and is told from the perspective of an _____. The story centres around the protagonist, Ebenezer _____, who is visited by a series of _____ who try to make him see the error of his greedy ways.

	Staves	Scrooge	Novella
Five	Christmas Eve	Ghosts	Omniscient narrator

Challenge: What is an **allegory**?

Why is 'A Christmas Carol' considered an **allegory**?

Before reading the novella...

Complete the table for the word 'philanthropy' and read the explanations for 'miserly' and 'misanthropic'

Vocabulary	Meaning	In context	Notes and Misconceptions
Philanthropy			Someone who is <u>philanthropic</u> is known as a <u>philanthropist</u> .
Miserly	This adjective is used to describe someone who likes to hold on to his or her money and not spend it. They might also be described as stingy.	The man inherited lots of money from his parents. However, he was so <u>miserly</u> that he refused to buy new shoes even when his old ones had worn out completely.	Someone who is <u>miserly</u> is known as a <u>miser</u> . The word miserly is not the same as greedy. A miser does not want to even spend money on themselves, whereas a greedy person might spend money on themselves but not on anyone else.
Misanthropic	This adjective is used to describe someone who has does not like people in general. They might be described as unsociable.	The woman's <u>misanthropic</u> behaviour led to many of his friends and family avoiding her.	Someone who is <u>misanthropic</u> is known as a <u>misanthrope</u> .

Describe one way someone might behave in a miserly way.

Describe one way someone might behave in a misanthropic way.

Read the following and answer the questions below in your books.

The protagonist (main character) is called Ebenezer Scrooge. He is normally just referred to by his last name, 'Scrooge'. He works as a money-lender and is very miserly and misanthropic. He used to have a business partner called Jacob Marley. Marley was just as miserly and misanthropic as him. Neither of them believed in philanthropy.

1. Who is the protagonist of the novella?
2. What is his job?
3. What kind of person is the protagonist?
4. Who was Jacob Marley?
5. How were the two business partners similar to one another?
6. What did Scrooge and Marley not believe in? Explain what this means in your own words.

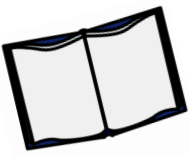
Challenge: Read the first line of the novella below.

What is intriguing about this line? Why might this intrigue a Victorian reader in particular?

Marley was dead: to begin with.

You are now going to read the opening of the novella (short story). Remember this is a book written in the 1800s so **do not worry** if you don't understand every word, you don't need to.

At the beginning of the novella, the **omniscient narrator** (all-knowing third person narrator) tells us that Marley is dead. The narrator makes sure that the reader knows that Marley was definitely dead.



Stave 1

Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it: and Scrooge's name was upon 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to. Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a door-nail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile; and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it, or the Country's done for. You will therefore permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executer, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend and his sole mourner. And even Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event, but that he was an excellent man of business on the very day of the funeral, and solemnized it with an undoubted bargain.

The mention of Marley's funeral brings me back to the point I started from. There is no doubt that Marley was dead. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate [...]

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley. The firm was known as Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people new to the business called Scrooge Scrooge, and sometimes Marley, but he answered to both names: it was all the same to him.



Glossary

Emphatically – with force

Sole – only

Executor—the person appointed to sort out someone's estate when they die

Task: Answer the following questions below about the opening page of the novella. Please

1. What perspective is the story told from?
2. What might the first line—'Marley was dead: to begin with' - foreshadow?
3. What state is Marley?
4. How did Scrooge know Marley?
5. We are told that Scrooge was Marley's 'sole mourner'. What does this suggest about Marley?
6. How did Scrooge react to Marley's death? Can you find a quote to support your answer?
7. Why do you think the narrator is so keen for us to understand that Marley was dead?
8. Why would Scrooge answer to both Scrooge and Marley?

Challenge: Why evidence suggests that both Scrooge and Marley are **misanthropic** characters?

6. Ebenezer Scrooge

LE: Who is Scrooge and how is he introduced to the reader?

Quick Recap Quiz

1. List **three** things we learn about Jacob Marley.
2. The reader is also introduced to the protagonist of the novel. What is his name?
3. What is the relationship between Marley and Scrooge?
4. What does the narrator try to make very clear to the reader?

Quick Vocabulary Review– are the following statements true or false?

- A. **Philanthropic** organisations are often known as charities. _____
- B. A **miser** hoards money and hates spending it. _____
- C. To be **misanthropic** is to be scared of people. _____

Who is Ebenezer Scrooge?



Glossary

Protagonist—main character

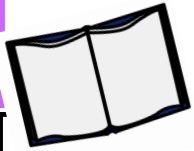
Avaricious— extremely greedy

In this section of the novella, we are introduced to the **protagonist**, **Ebenezer Scrooge**. As we have already learnt, Scrooge works as a money-lender and could be described as a **miserly** and **misanthropic** character. In this section, we will learn more about his **avaricious** nature.

Did you know...?

Dickens choosing to name is protagonist, 'Ebenezer' may have been a deliberate attempt to reveal more about Scrooge's character. This name is a combination of the Hebrew word for stone (*eben*) and the Hebrew word for helper ('ezer). Thus, an *Ebenezer* (literally, *ha-eben ha-'ezer*) would have been a stone that offered some sort of assistance.

What might this further suggest about his character?



The narrator introduces the character of Ebenezer Scrooge and describes his appearance and personality using a range of imagery.

Stave 1



Oh! But he was a **tight-fisted** hand at the grind-stone, Scrooge! a **squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching**, covetous, old **sinner**! **Hard and sharp as flint**, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and **self-contained**, and **solitary as an oyster**. 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. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; **he iced his office** in the dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, "No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!"

But what did Scrooge care? **It was the very thing he liked**. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy **to keep its distance**, was what the knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge.

Glossary

Word	Definition	Word	Definition
grindstone	Scrooge was a hard worker who worked other people hard.	covetous	Wanting something that belongs to someone else.
flint	A sharp stone which when rubs together is used to spark a fire.	gait	A way of walking.
shrewdly	Speaking in a judging way.	rime	A cover.
dog-days	The hottest days of the year.	implored	Begged.
bestow	To give someone something.	trifle	A small thing e.g. a bit of bread / money.

Task: Annotate your extract for the following...

- Find a quote which suggests that Scrooge is **miserly**.
- Find a quote which describes Scrooge's appearance.
- Find a quote which tells you about Scrooge's relationship to other people.
- Find a quote which implies that Scrooge does not believe in **philanthropy**.
- Find a quote to suggest that Scrooge is **misanthropic**.

How does Dickens use language to present Scrooge in the opening Stave?

Read the shorter extract describing Scrooge. What impression do you get of his character?

Write down **five** adjectives you would use to describe him.

Simile used to perhaps connote his tough and unbreakable exterior.

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! **Hard and sharp as flint**, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.

Dickens uses a range of words, phrases and devices to provide a vivid image of Scrooge's appearance and personality.

Task: Can you identify, highlight and annotate the following...

1. Three adjectives used to describe him.
2. Two similes used to describe him.
3. Two colours used to describe him.
4. A noun that suggests Scrooge commits evil deeds.
5. Use of the weather to describe him.

Challenge 1: Can you identify the compound adjective used to describe him?

Challenge 2: Can you identify the asyndetic list?

Challenge 3: Can you identify the sibilance?

What do these words, phrases and devices suggest about Scrooge's character? We will explore the connotations on the next page.

How does Dickens use language to present Scrooge in the opening Stave?

We will now explore the **connotations** of these words, phrases and devices.

A **connotation** is a feeling or idea that is suggested by a word or phrase. It is important that you explore the **connotations** of specific words when analysing the language of an extract.

Oh! But he was a **tight-fisted** hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a **squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!** **Hard and sharp as flint**, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; **secret**, and **self-contained**, and **solitary as an oyster**. The cold within him froze his **old** features, nipped his **pointed** nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes **red**, his **thin** lips **blue** and spoke out shrewdly in his **grating** voice.

With your teacher, go through the images below and discuss the possible connotations. Write down your ideas as you go...



"tight-fisted"



"solitary as an oyster"



"hard and sharp as flint"

1. "Oh!" is an exclamation. Why do you think that Dickens has used this to introduce the description of Scrooge?

2a. What does the compound adjective "tight-fisted" mean?

b. What image does this create of Scrooge?

c. What does this tell you about the nature of Scrooge?

3. To "have your nose to the grindstone" means to work hard. Can you try and explain the metaphor, "a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone"?



grindstone

/ ɡrɪn(d)stəʊn/

noun

a thick disc of stone or other abrasive material mounted so as to revolve, used for grinding, sharpening, or polishing metal objects.

• *rare*

another term for millstone.

Oh! But he was a **tight-fisted** hand at the **grindstone**, **Scrooge!** A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old **sinner!** **Hard and sharp as flint**, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; **secret**, and **self-contained**, and **solitary** as an **oyster**.

4a. Why do you think that the writer uses a list of words to describe Scrooge? What is the effect of the list?

5. What "sin" has Scrooge committed? Why do you think that Dickens chooses to use the word "sinner" and how might it link to the rest of the novella?

8. What does this compound adjective tell you about Scrooge's character? Which other words does it link to?

Makes notes on this metaphor/image when we discuss it:

4b. Complete the table exploring the connotations of the "modifiers" below.

Modifier	Connotations
Squeezing	
wrenching	
grasping	
scraping	
clutching	
covetous	

9. Explain this simile: "solitary as an oyster"

6. What language technique is this and what does it tell you about Scrooge? Think carefully about the connotations of the adjectives "hard" and "sharp".

7. In what way might Scrooge be seen as "secret"?

7. Presentation of Scrooge's character

LE: How does Dickens initially present the character of Scrooge?

Starter task: Which words best describe how Scrooge is initially introduced? Circle at least five and be prepared to explain your answer.

Top tip: You may want to cross out the words that definitely **DO NOT** describe Scrooge first.

Lonely	Philanthropic	Intimidating	Compassionate
Misanthropic	Solitary	Avaricious	Forgiving
Generous	Hostile	Sociable	Unsympathetic
Abrasive	Uncaring	Severe	Elusive
Cold-hearted	Depressed	Empathetic	Shy
Uncharitable	Optimistic	Mysterious	Miserly

This lesson, you will be using your using your notes from last lesson to produce an extended response to the following question:

Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract. [20 marks]

You will be focusing on analysing the language used to present Scrooge of the extract (AO2)

Top tip: Approach this question exactly how you would Section A for 'Romeo and Juliet'. The skills are exactly the same!

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind-stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. 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. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

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Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract. [20 marks]

What do we need to include in this response?

Task: Complete the success criteria below to remind yourself of the key criteria for analysing the language of an extract closely.

- _____ **statement**
- **Short** _____ **quotes**
- **Subject** _____
- _____ **language**
- **Language of** _____
- **Detailed analysis**
_____ of words/images
- **Effect on** _____
- **Link back to** _____



Task: Read the model paragraph and annotate for where it meets in the success criteria.

Subject terminology

In this extract, Dickens uses the **simile**: "hard and sharp as flint" to convey Scrooge's unkind and cruel nature. The use of the adjective "hard" suggests that Scrooge has a tough exterior; he is not a man who is likely to warm to others. His harsh qualities are further emphasised by Dickens' use of the adjective "sharp" which again highlights Scrooge's severe nature, perhaps drawing attention to his abrasive and abrupt manner with others. However, by comparing Scrooge to "flint", Dickens may possibly be suggesting that there may be more to his character. Whilst the "flint" further alludes to Scrooge's rough and sturdy exterior, when flint is rubbed together it has the ability to create a spark to start a fire. This "spark" could be symbolic of a possible depth or change in Scrooge's character later in the novella. Through this, the reader may be intrigued to find out how Scrooge's seemingly harsh and tough character may develop or change throughout the novella.



Other top tips:

- Include a **brief introduction** to outline your overall impression of Scrooge in this extract. This should be no more than 1-2 sentences long.
- Analyse at least **3-4 pieces of evidence**. Say something different about each one. Remember to zoom in and explore possible connotations at every opportunity.
- You do not have to comment on the effect on the reader in each paragraph. Only if you have something meaningful and relevant to say.
- **Aiming high**: Try to **comment on a structural technique** i.e. sentence forms or use of repetition.

- **Opening statement**
- **Short embedded quotes**
- **Subject terminology**
- **Tentative language**
- **Language of interpretation**
- **Detailed analysis**
Connotations of words/images
Effect on reader
- **Link back to question**

In this extract, Dickens uses the **simile**: "hard and sharp as flint" to **convey** Scrooge's unkind and cruel nature. The use of the **adjective** "hard" **suggests** that Scrooge has a tough exterior; he is not a man who is likely to warm to others. His harsh qualities are further **emphasised** by Dickens' use of the **adjective** "sharp" which **again highlights** Scrooge's severe nature, perhaps drawing attention to his abrasive and abrupt manner with others. However, by comparing Scrooge to "flint", Dickens **may possibly be suggesting** that there may be more to his character. Whilst the "flint" further **alludes** to Scrooge's rough and sturdy exterior, when flint is rubbed together it has the ability to create a spark to start a fire. This "spark" **could be symbolic** of a possible depth or change in Scrooge's character later in the novella. Through this, the reader **may be intrigued** to find out how Scrooge's seemingly harsh and tough character may develop or change throughout the novella.

Task: Before you write up your response, read the response below and identify how it can be improved? If you can identify mistakes or improvements in other responses, you are more likely to avoid the mistake in your own work.

Dickens presents Scrooge as stingy man through the word "tight-fisted" which shows that he loves money. Also the word "squeezing" shows that he really loves money and the word "sinner" shows that he is evil.

WWW:

EBI:



- **Opening statement**
- **Short embedded quotes**
- **Subject terminology**
- **Tentative language**
- **Language of interpretation**
- **Detailed analysis**
Connotations of words/images
Effect on reader
- **Link back to question**

Explore how Dickens presents Scrooge in this extract. [20 marks]



Word bank:

- Misanthropic
- Miserly
- Antisocial
- Secretive
- Isolated
- Hostile
- Cold-hearted
- Harsh
- Severe
- Unemotional
- Greedy
- Avaricious
- Intimidating
- Abrasive
- Elusive
- Mysterious
- Ungenerous
- Uncharitable
- Cruel
- Unkind
- Tough
- Uncaring

Short quotes

- "tight-fisted hand at the grindstone"
- "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!"
- "Hard and sharp as flint"
- "secret, and self-contained"
- "solitary as an oyster."
- "The cold within him froze his old features"
- "A frosty rime was on his head"
- "No wind that blew was bitterer than he"
- "no children asked him what it was o'clock"
- "No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle"

Scaffold

Opening statement

Dickens uses _____:
 "_____" to
 convey/portray/suggest/imply_____

Language of interpretation

- Convey/portray/present/
- Suggest/imply
- Emphasise/highlight/reiterate/reinforce

Tentative Language

may/might/could/perhaps/possibly

Subject terminology

- Verb/adverb/adjective
- Noun/abstract
noun/concrete noun
- Imagery/sensory language
- Simile/metaphor/
personification
- List/asyndetic/syndetic
- Plosive/sibilance/alliteration

Setting

LE: What does the setting further reveal about Scrooge's character and treatment of others?

Quick Quiz

Are these statements **true** or **false**?

1. Scrooge is presented as a lonely character _____
2. Scrooge is presented as a misanthropic character _____
3. Scrooge is presented as an avaricious character _____
4. Scrooge is compared to a clam _____
5. Dickens uses colour imagery to describe Scrooge's appearance _____
6. Scrooge is referred to as the "devil" _____

Complete the following quotes:

- "_____ -fisted"
- "solitary as an _____"
- "_____ and sharp as _____"



In this section of the novella, we will read a description of the setting. We will read a description of Scrooge's place of work, his **counting-house**. This description not only creates a sense of **foreboding** but also reveals more about his character, in particular, the way he treats others.

Glossary

Counting house— office used for financial business

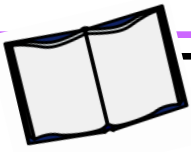
Foreboding— a sense that something bad might happen



From what we know of Scrooge already...

- What do you think the counting-house might look like?
- How do you think Scrooge will treat his employees?

In this scene, Dickens describes vividly describes the setting. The story is set on a cold Christmas Eve. Dickens describes the happenings outside the counting-house before describing it's bleak and dismal interior. Dickens uses **pathetic fallacy** to create an ominous atmosphere, suggesting that there is a supernatural presence lurking about.



Stave 1

Once upon a time—of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve—old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already—it had not been light all day—and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. 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 the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

Glossary

Pathetic fallacy—the use of the weather to create mood or atmosphere

Withal—in addition; used to draw attention to something else worth mentioning

Palpable—able to touch or feel

Dense—thick

Phantoms—ghosts

Dingy—gloomy

Obscuring—difficult to see

Clerk—a person who performs administrative tasks such as filing or writing letters

Dismal—gloomy; bleak

Tank—little room

Replenish—to fill up again

Shovel—a tool used to dig/lift/transport items

Comforter—blanket

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What important day does the story take place on?
2. What is the weather like on this day? Can you find a quote?
3. Where is Scrooge sat?
4. What are people outside the counting-house doing to keep warm?
5. Dickens draws attention to the fact that it was 'already dark'. What kind of atmosphere does this create?
6. How is the fog described? How does this add to the atmosphere?
7. What does Dickens mention in the first paragraph that adds to a ghostly atmosphere?
8. Who does Scrooge keep an eye on in his counting-house? Why do you think he does this?
9. The clerk is described as sitting in a '**dismal little cell**'. What does the adjective "dismal" suggest about the clerk's workspace? What does the noun "cell" suggest about the clerk's workspace and the way he is treated?
10. What adjective is used to describe Scrooge's fire? Why might this be?
11. How big is the clerk's fire? What does this tell us about the way that Scrooge treats his employees?
12. Why couldn't the clerk replenish the fire? What does this tell us about Scrooge's character?
13. What does the clerk use to keep himself warm? List two things.

Challenge 1: What elements of this description might intrigue or build tension for the reader? Is there anything in particular that might intrigue a Victorian audience?

Challenge 2: The fog is described as "obscuring everything". What might this also be symbolic of? Think about the historical context.

Challenge 3: What colour is the clerk's comforter? What are the connotations of this? Think back to the colours used to describe Scrooge. How do they contrast?

Task: Complete the following sentences...

- Dickens vividly describes the setting to create an ominous atmosphere **because...**
- Dickens vividly describes the setting to create an ominous atmosphere **but...**
- Dickens vividly describes the setting to create an ominous atmosphere **so...**

9. Fred

LE: Who is Fred and how does Dickens portray his character?

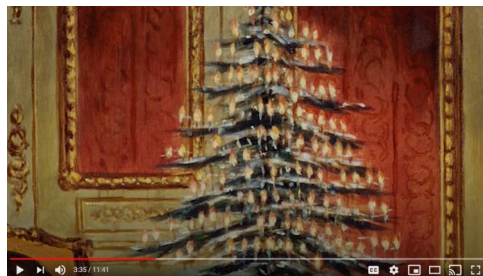
Quick Recap Quiz

1. What day does the story begin?
2. What is the weather like?
3. What place is described to the reader?
4. Who works in a “**dismal, little cell**”?
5. What adjective is used describe the size of Scrooge’s fire?
6. What does the clerk have to do to keep warm as he works?

‘A Christmas Carol’, as the title suggests, is set during the festive season. During the Victorian era, Christmas became a popular festival, celebrated by many different people. Dickens himself very much enjoyed the festive season and perhaps is why he decided to set his novel on Christmas Eve.

Task: Watch the following video to learn about Christmas in the Victorian era? Begin at 2.21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UIBzHyK9mY>



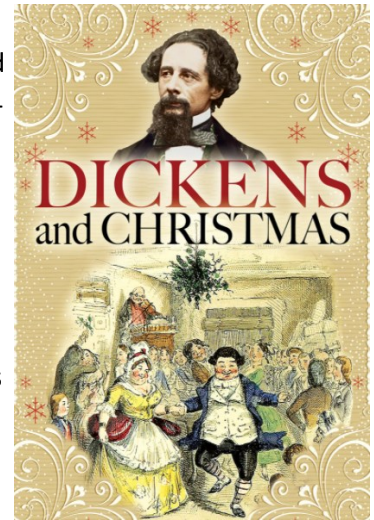
Task: Answer the following questions based on the information in the video.

1. When did celebrating Christmas become popular?
2. What country did the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree come from?
3. Who popularised the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree?
4. What did the Victorians begin sending each other at Christmas time?
5. What did people sing at Christmas?
6. ‘A Christmas Carol’ was written and released in 1843. What month was it published?
7. How was it received by the public? Why do you think this was?
8. What message is Dickens trying to get across about Christmas through ‘A Christmas Carol’?

Dickens wrote about Christmas in many of his novels including 'Great Expectations', 'Pickwick Papers' and, of course, 'A Christmas Carol'. Many have speculated that he enjoyed and appreciated the festive season so much because it was everything Dickens aspired to have as a troubled, insecure child: family, fun, festivity, tradition and security.

All his life, Dickens loved Christmas. As a young man he hosted large Christmas parties. He provided food, organised games and showed off his very impressive magic tricks — including a sensational one involving a flaming Christmas pudding. He also wrote sketches for family members to perform, often taking the lead roles himself.

As well as the fun and excitement Christmas brought him, in 'A Christmas Carol', Dickens also reminds readers of core Christian values that should be embraced during the festive season. He reminds us that Christmas has little to do with displays of wealth, and instead focuses on the importance of spending time with loved ones and the joy of an act of charity. This is echoed through various characters in 'A Christmas Carol' including Fred.



Fred acts as a **foil** to Scrooge.

In fiction, a **foil** is a character who contrasts with another character, usually the protagonist, to highlight qualities of the other character.

Q. What might we expect from Fred's character?

As we read, find evidence which supports the idea that Fred is the **antithesis** (opposite) of Scrooge.



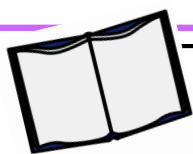
Fred acts as a **mouthpiece** for Dickens.

A **mouthpiece** is when someone speaks on behalf of another person. In this case, Fred speaks for Dickens, voicing his views of Christmas and its purpose.

Q. What might Fred's views of Christmas be?

As we read, find evidence which supports the idea that Fred is the **mouthpiece** for Dickens.

In this scene, we are introduced to Scrooge's nephew, Fred. Fred arrives in Scrooge's counting house and is clearly very excited for Christmas. He is cheerful and jovial, a stark contrast to the character of Scrooge. Scrooge is dismissive of his nephew and refuses to attend Christmas dinner.



Stave 1

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a **cheerful voice**. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was **all in a glow**; his face was ruddy and handsome; **his eyes sparkled**, and his breath smoked again.

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure."

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew **gaily**. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of **fools** as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every **idiot** who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, **should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart**. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, **sternly**, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me **leave it alone**, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. 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!"

The clerk in the tank involuntarily applauded. Becoming immediately sensible of the impropriety, he poked the fire, and extinguished the last frail spark for ever.

“Let me hear another sound from you,” said Scrooge, “and you’ll keep your Christmas by losing your situation! You’re quite a powerful speaker, sir,” he added, turning to his nephew. “I wonder you don’t go into Parliament.”

“Don’t be angry, uncle. **Come! Dine with us to-morrow.**”

Scrooge said that he would see him—yes, indeed he did. He went the whole length of the expression, and said that he would see him in that extremity first.

“But why?” cried Scrooge’s nephew.

“Why?” “Why did you get married?” said Scrooge. “Because I fell in love.”

“Because you fell in love!” growled Scrooge, as if that were the only one thing in the world more ridiculous than a merry Christmas.

“Good afternoon!”

“Nay, uncle, but you never came to see me before that happened. Why give it as a reason for not coming now?”

“Good afternoon,” said Scrooge.

“I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot we be friends?”

“Good afternoon,” said Scrooge.

“I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. We have never had any quarrel, to which I have been a party. But I have made the trial in homage to Christmas, and I’ll keep my Christmas humour to the last. **So A Merry Christmas, uncle!**” “Good afternoon!” said Scrooge. “And A Happy New Year!”

“Good afternoon!” said Scrooge

Glossary

Humbug -is a person or object that behaves in a deceptive or dishonest way

Indignantly—in a manner indicating anger or annoyance

Stake— a wooden stick with a point at the end

Holly— a traditional Christmas plant

Derived— to take; to receive; to obtain from a specific source

Veneration—a feeling of awe or great respect

Holly



Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. How is Fred related to Scrooge?
2. How is Fred's voice described?
3. How does Fred move and act?
4. Why has Fred come to see Scrooge? List two things.
5. What type of imagery is used to describe Fred? Can you give an example?
6. Fred's character is a **foil** to Scrooge. What is a foil?
7. Why does Scrooge think Fred should not be 'merry' about Christmas?
8. Why might we describe Fred as persistent?
9. Fred gives a speech about Christmas. Summarise his views on Christmas.
10. How does the clerk respond to Fred's speech?
11. Fred invites Scrooge to Christmas dinner the next day. How does Scrooge respond?
12. What line does Scrooge repeat to try and get rid of Fred?
13. Despite Scrooge's attitude, what does Fred wish him before he leaves? What does this suggest about this character?
14. Write down three **KEY QUOTES** for Fred that are easy to remember.

Challenge 1: Notice the lengths of sentences of both Fred and Scrooge. What do they suggest?

Challenge 2: Both characters use exclamation marks throughout their interaction but for different reasons. What does the exclamation mark imply about the feelings and tone of each character?

Challenge 3: Who might Fred be a **mouthpiece** for? What might Dickens be trying to advocate through Fred's character?

This is the **key quote** about the character of Fred. Not only, does it reveal more about Fred's character but also serves to highlight Scrooge's flaws. With your teacher, zoom in on each word of this quote and discuss the connotations.

What are the connotations of 'glow'? How can this be seen in a positive sense?

Explain how this quotation presents Fred as the antithesis (opposite) of Scrooge.

'He was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled.'

What is Dickens' authorial intent? Why is it necessary for Fred to enter into the story when he does?

What are the connotations of the verb "sparkled"

What impression does the verb 'sparkled' give us of Fred's outlook on life?

10. Two Portly Gentlemen

LE: What do we learn about Scrooge's character through his interaction with the Portly Gentleman?

Quick Recap Quiz

Complete the quotes for Fred:

- "Merry _____, Uncle!"
- "all in a _____"
- "Come! _____ with us tomorrow"



Complete the quotes for Scrooge:

- "Bah! _____"
- "What right do you have to be _____?"
- "Good _____"

In the next section of the novella, Scrooge is visited by two 'portly gentlemen' who are collecting money for the poor during the festive season. Sadly, Scrooge views the poor as undeserving of his money and refuses to give a donation. His attitude in this scene may be reflective of many upper class Victorians who ignored the impoverished, believing it was the responsibility of those in poverty to get themselves out of their situation. This meant that many destitute people were condemned to a life of hardship in workhouses.

What were the workhouses?

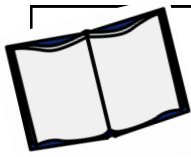
The Poor Laws were passed in 1834. This meant that no one was to receive money or other help from authorities except in a workhouse. Workhouses provided basic shelter and food for those who became destitute. However, the conditions were appalling. 'Inmates' had to work long hours, for very little food and usually no pay. They were often separated from their families and subject to uncomfortable and unsanitary conditions and various forms of abuse.

Conditions were to be made harsh to discourage poverty. The Poor Laws punished the most defenseless and helpless people in society. The idea of workhouses was that poverty was the result of laziness and that the dreadful conditions in the workhouse would inspire the poor to improve themselves. In reality, the workhouse was little more than a prison for the poor.



Q. What do you think Dickens felt about the workhouses?

In this scene, Fred leaves the counting-house and two Portly Gentleman arrive. These two men are collecting money for the poor and needy. They ask Scrooge for a donation but he refuses. Scrooge implies that the poor do not deserve financial support, referring to them as 'idle' (lazy).



Stave 1

This lunatic, in letting Scrooge's nephew out, had let two other people in. They were portly gentlemen, pleasant to behold, and now stood, with their hats off, in Scrooge's office. They had books and papers in their hands, and **bowed to him**.



"Scrooge and Marley's, I believe," said one of the gentlemen, referring to his list. "Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge, or Mr. Marley?"

"Mr. Marley has been dead these seven years," Scrooge replied. "He died seven years ago, this very night."

"We have no doubt his **liberality** is well represented by his surviving partner," said the gentleman, presenting his credentials.

It certainly was; for they had been two kindred spirits. At the ominous word "**liberality**," Scrooge **frowned, and shook his head**, and handed the credentials back.

"At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should make some **slight provision for the Poor and Destitute**, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir."

"Are there no **prisons**?" asked Scrooge.

"Plenty of prisons," said the gentleman, laying down the pen again.

"And the **Union workhouses**?" demanded Scrooge. "Are they still in operation?"

"They are. Still," returned the gentleman, "I wish I could say they were not."

"The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?" said Scrooge.

"Both very busy, sir."

"Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course," said Scrooge. "I'm very glad to hear it."

"Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude," returned the gentleman, "a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. **What shall I put you down for?**"

"**Nothing!**" Scrooge replied.

"You wish to be anonymous?"

"**I wish to be left alone,**" said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and **I can't afford to make idle people merry.** I help to support the establishments I have mentioned -- they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there."

"Many can't go there; and many would rather die."

"If they would rather die," said Scrooge, "**they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.** Besides -- excuse me -- I don't know that."

"But you might know it," observed the gentleman.

"It's not my business," Scrooge returned. "It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. **Good afternoon, gentlemen!"**

Seeing clearly that it would be useless to pursue their point, the gentlemen withdrew. Scrooge returned his labours with an improved opinion of himself, and in a more facetious temper than was usual with him.

Glossary

Portly—fat

Liberality—spending or giving money freely

Credentials—proof of someone's qualification, experience or job title

Provision— providing useful supplies

Kindred— very similar

The Treadmill— Device used to punish the prisoners

Vigour—with full strength

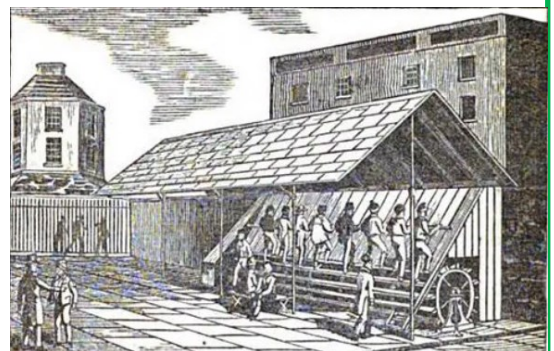
Endeavouring—to try

Abundance— a very large quantity of something

Idle—lazy

Surplus—too many

Facetious—treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour



The Treadmill

The device was a wide hollow cylinder, usually composed of wooden steps built around a cylindrical iron frame, and was designed in some cases to handle as many as 40 convicts. As the device began to rotate, each prisoner was forced to continue stepping along the series of planks. The power generated by the treadwheel was commonly used to grind corn and pump water, although some served no purpose at all other than punishment.

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Who are the two new characters?
2. What do they look like? What does this tell us about them?
3. What does the narrator mean by saying that Scrooge and Marley are 'kindred spirits'?
4. What are the portly gentlemen trying to do and why? Use a quote in your response.
5. What attitude do the portly gentlemen display towards the poor? Explain your answer with a quote.
6. Why might Scrooge ask 'are there no prisons?' What else does he demand to know?
7. What does this reveal about Scrooge's attitude to the poor?
8. How do the portly gentlemen view prisons and workhouses? Find a quote to support this.
9. Why have the portly gentlemen chosen 'this time' to raise money for the poor?
10. What does Scrooge's one word response tell us about his feelings and views? What tone can you imagine him saying it in?
11. Find a quote to suggest that Scrooge thinks the poor are lazy.
12. According to one of the gentlemen, what would many poor people rather do than go in to the workhouse?
13. Who is Scrooge referring to when he says, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population"?
14. According to Scrooge, what is not his 'business'?

Challenge: What do you think that Dickens is trying to highlight to the Victorian reader in this scene?

This is the **key quote** from this scene. It not only reflects the view and attitude of Scrooge towards the poor but also reveals what many upper classes in Victorian society felt too. With your teacher, zoom in on each word of this quote and discuss the connotations.



- What type of word is this?
- What does it suggest?

- What type of word is this?
- What does it suggest?

"Decrease the surplus population"




Glossary
Decrease: to lower
Surplus: too much
Population: people

- What type of word is this?
- What does it suggest?

Consolidating knowledge of Stave 1 so far

Recall how Scrooge treats each of the following characters.

Stave One: Scrooge's treatment of others

Character	How does Scrooge treat them?	Evidence	This suggests...
Fred (his nephew) 			
The portly gentlemen 			
Bob Cratchit (his clerk) 			

11. Tension and suspense

LE: How does Dickens build tension before the arrival of Marley's Ghost?

Stave One so far...

1. What is the full name of the protagonist of the novella?
2. What historical time period is the novella set?
3. Who wrote the novella?
4. Who is Jacob Marley?
5. How long has he been dead for?
6. Who attended his funeral?
7. Write down a quote to show that Scrooge isolates himself from others.
8. Write down a quote to show that Scrooge is miserly.
9. How is Fred related to Scrooge?
10. Fred is a foil to Scrooge. What does this mean?
11. Complete the quote about Fred's appearance: "all in a _____"
12. How do we know that Fred embraces Christmas? Can you give a quote?
13. What quote does Scrooge repeatedly use to show his distaste for Christmas?
14. Why do two Portly Gentleman visit Scrooge?
15. Complete the following quotes:
"Are there no _____?"
"_____ the surplus _____."
16. What word does Scrooge use to show that he thinks the poor are lazy?
17. What is the name of Scrooge's clerk?
18. How does Scrooge treat his employee? Can you give an example?

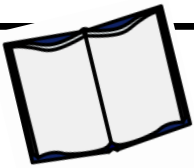
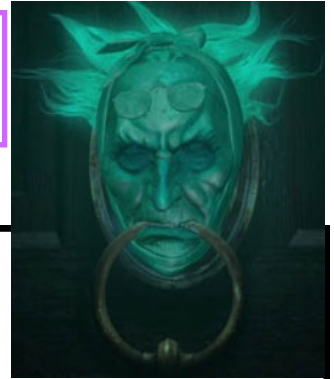


Dickens builds tension throughout Stave 1. **Tension** is defined as the **feeling of anxiety or unease you experience whilst waiting for something to happen** in a story. In this lesson, we will read two extracts that build tension before the arrival of Marley's Ghost.

Q. How has Dickens built tension so far in the Stave 1?

Challenge: Can you think of any specific devices he uses?

In this scene, Scrooge arrives home to find the face of Jacob Marley appear in his door knocker. Scrooge is startled by the event.



Stave 1

Now, it is a fact, that there was nothing at all particular about the **knocker on the door**, except that it was very large. It is also a fact, that Scrooge had seen it, night and morning, during his whole residence in that place; also that Scrooge had as little of what is called fancy about him as any man in the city of London, even including—which is a bold word—the corporation, aldermen, and livery. 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. And then let any man explain to me, if he can, how it happened that Scrooge, having his key in the lock of the door, saw in the knocker, **without its undergoing any intermediate process of change**—not a knocker, **but Marley's face. Marley's face.** It was not in impenetrable shadow as the other objects in the yard were, but had a **dismal light** about it, **like a bad lobster in a dark cellar.** It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look: with **ghostly spectacles** turned up on its **ghostly forehead.** The hair was **curiously stirred**, as if by breath or hot air; and, though the eyes were wide open, they were **perfectly motionless.** That, and its livid colour, made it horrible; but its horror seemed to be in spite of the face and beyond its control, rather than a part of its own expression

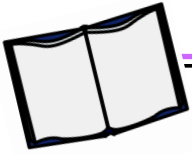
As Scrooge looked fixedly at this phenomenon, **it was a knocker again.**

To say that he was not startled, or that his **blood was not conscious of a terrible sensation** to which it had been a stranger from infancy, would be untrue. But he put his hand upon the key he had relinquished, turned it sturdily, walked in, and lighted his candle.

Task: Answer the following questions:

1. Find a quote that shows Marley's face appeared out of nowhere.
2. What simile does Dickens use to describe Marley's face? What does this mean? What does it suggest about his appearance?
3. List four other things about Marley's disturbing appearance.
4. What word does Dickens repeat when describing Marley's face? Why do you think he does this?
5. What happens at the end of the extract?
6. **How does Scrooge react to this supernatural occurrence? Shocked, speechless, paranoid, terrified, petrified**
7. **Can you link this event with the opening of the novella? Think about the first line.**
8. **How might a Victorian reader react to this scene?**

After seeing Marley's face in the knocker, Scrooge goes into his house and tries to settle for the evening. However, he remains **apprehensive and alert**.



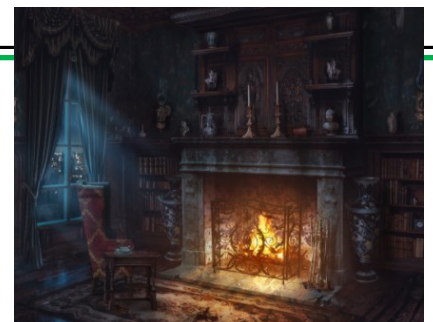
Quite satisfied, he closed his door, and locked himself in; **double-locked himself in, which was not his custom**. Thus secured against surprise, he took off his cravat; put on his dressing-gown and slippers, and his nightcap; and sat down before the fire **to take his gruel**.

It was a **very low fire** indeed; nothing on such a **bitter night**. He was obliged to sit close to it, and brood over it, before he could extract the least sensation of warmth from such a handful of fuel. The fireplace was an old one, built by some Dutch merchant long ago, and paved all round with quaint Dutch tiles, designed to illustrate the Scriptures. There were Cains and Abels, Pharaoh's daughters, Queens of Sheba, Angelic messengers descending through the air on clouds like feather-beds, Abrahams, Belshazzars, Apostles putting off to sea in butter-boats, hundreds of figures to attract his thoughts; **and yet that face of Marley, seven years dead, came like the ancient Prophet's rod, and swallowed up the whole**. If each smooth tile had been a blank at first, with power to shape some picture on its surface from the disjointed fragments of his thoughts, there would have been a **copy of old Marley's head on every one**.

"**Humbug!**" said Scrooge; and walked across the room.

After several turns, he sat down again. As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, **a disused bell**, that hung in the room, and communicated for some purpose now forgotten with a chamber in the highest story of the building. It was with **great astonishment**, and with a **strange, inexplicable dread**, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; but soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house.

This might have lasted half a minute, or a minute, but it seemed an hour. **The bells ceased** as they had begun, together. They were succeeded by a **clanking noise, deep down below**; as if some person were **dragging a heavy chain** over the casks in the wine-merchant's cellar. Scrooge then remembered to have heard that ghosts in haunted houses were described as **dragging chains**. The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, and then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.



Glossary

Cravat— strip of fabric worn around the neck, usually worn by men

Gruel— thin porridge

Brood—to think deeply

Fireplace— the place where fires are lit in the home for warmth and light

Dickens effectively builds tension before the arrival of Marley's Ghost.

Can you explain how each quote below creates a tense atmosphere?

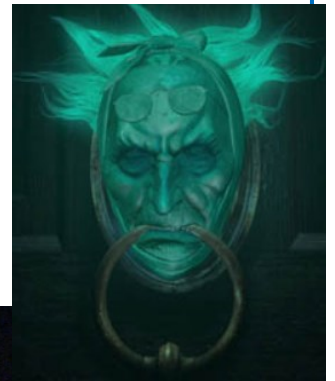
Quote	Analysis
"he closed his door, and locked himself in; double-locked himself in, which was not his custom."	
"hundreds of figures to attract his thoughts; and yet that face of Marley, seven years dead...swallowed up the whole."	
"It was with great astonishment, and with a strange, inexplicable dread, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing"	
"They were succeeded by a clanking noise, deep down below; as if some person were dragging a heavy chain"	
"he heard the noise much louder... then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door. "	

12. Marley's Warning

LE: Why does Marley's Ghost visit Scrooge and what can the reader learn from this pivotal event?

Starter task: What do we already know about Jacob Marley? List at least **five** things.

-
-
-
-
-
-
-



In this scene, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of Marley. Look at the list of words and phrases that are used to describe him in the next scene.

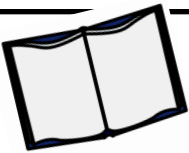
What can we infer about his character?

Why might he be visiting Scrooge?

**pigtail, usual waistcoat,
tights and boots
chain clasped his middle
long
wound like a tail
cashboxes, keys, padlocks
ledgers
heavy purses wrought in steel
body transparent
death-cold eyes**

Who is Jacob Marley and why does he visit Scrooge?

- Scrooge's business partner
- He has been dead for seven years however, in the opening of the novella, Dickens hints that he would return— **"Marley was dead: to begin with."**
- Scrooge and Marley are described as **"two kindred spirits"** suggesting that they have a similar personality
- Marley's ghost has disturbing appearance
- Marley wears a heavy chain and drags cashboxes around with him.
- Marley has come to warn Scrooge that his avaricious deeds will have consequences in the afterlife.
- Marley tries to offer Scrooge a chance of redemption.
- Marley explains that Scrooge will be visited by three ghosts that night.



Stave 1

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent, so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

No, nor did he believe it even now. Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before: he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

"How now!" said Scrooge, caustic and cold as ever. "What do you want with me?"

"Much!" -- Marley's voice, no doubt about it.

"Who are you?"

"Ask me who I was."

"Who *were* you then?" said Scrooge, raising his voice. "You're particular, for a shade." He was going to say "to a shade," but substituted this, as more appropriate.

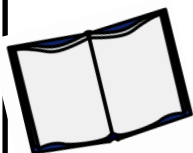
"In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley."



Task: Answer the following questions.

- List **four** things about Marley's appearance.
- Marley wears a 'long chain'. Why might this be? What might the chain be symbolic of?
- List **four** items attached to the chain. What might these items be symbolic of?
- How does Scrooge react to Marley?

Stave 1



Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain and wrung its shadowy hands.

"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"

"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. Is its pattern strange to you?"

Scrooge trembled more and more.

"Or would you know," pursued the Ghost, "the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!"

Scrooge glanced about him on the floor, in the expectation of finding himself surrounded by some fifty or sixty fathoms of iron cable: but he could see nothing.

"Jacob," he said, imploringly. "Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob!"

"I have none to give," the Ghost replied. "It comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men. Nor can I tell you what I would. A very little more, is all permitted to me. I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house -- mark me! -- in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me!"

It was a habit with Scrooge, whenever he became thoughtful, to put his hands in his breeches pockets. Pondering on what the Ghost had said, he did so now, but without lifting up his eyes, or getting off his knees.

"You must have been very slow about it, Jacob," Scrooge observed, in a business-like manner, though with humility and deference.

Slow!" the Ghost repeated.

"Seven years dead," mused Scrooge. "And travelling all the time!"

"The whole time," said the Ghost. "No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse."

"You travel fast?" said Scrooge.

"On the wings of the wind," replied the Ghost.

"You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years," said Scrooge.

The Ghost, on hearing this, set up another cry, and clanked its chain so hideously in the dead silence of the night, that the Ward would have been justified in indicting it for a nuisance.

"Oh! captive, bound, and double-ironed," cried the phantom, "not to know, that ages of incessant labour, by immortal creatures, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused! Yet such was I! Oh! such was I!"

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

It held up its chain at arm's length, as if that were the cause of all its unavailing grief, and flung it heavily upon the ground again.



Glossary

Spectre – Ghost

Fettered – chained, restricted

Girded - secured

Trembled – to shake

Coil – something wound up

Ponderous - heavy

Linger – to stay

Roved – travel constantly

Breeches – short trousers

Humility - modesty

Deference - respect

Incessant – non-stop

Forbearance – patience


Benevolence - kindness

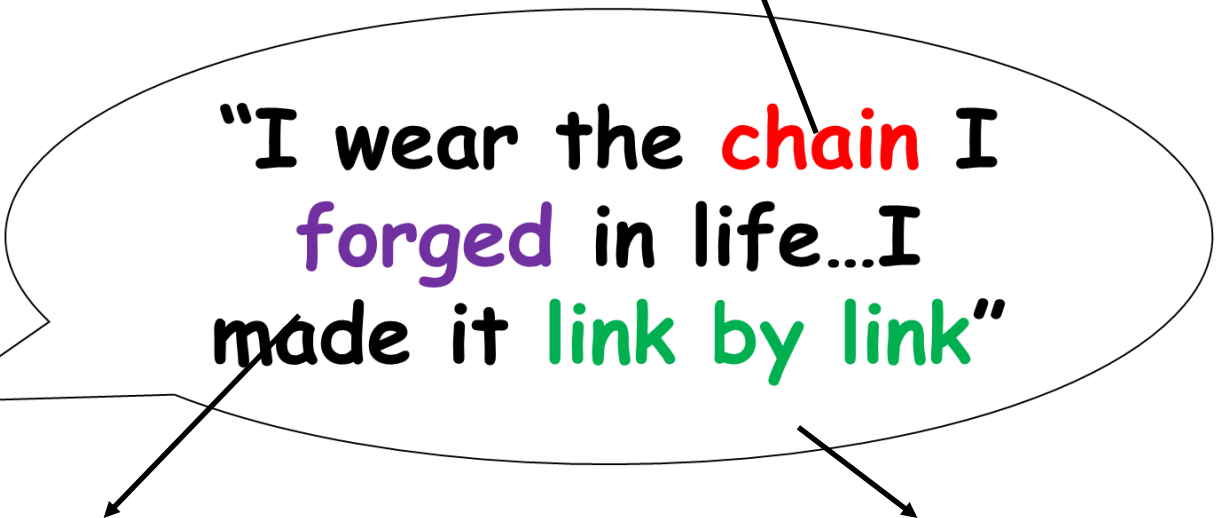
Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Write down a quote to show Marley's Ghost is distressed.
2. Look at the beginning of the extract. What word tells us that Scrooge is scared of Marley's Ghost?
3. Marley says '**I wear the chain I forged in life**'. What does this mean?
4. Marley states that he made the chain with his '**own free will**'. What does this mean?
5. Marley says that Scrooge's chain will be a '**ponderous chain**'. What does the word 'ponderous' mean? What does this tell us about Scrooge's punishment in the afterlife?
6. What does Marley mean by '**my spirit never walked beyond our counting-house**'?
7. Marley is being punished for his sins in life by wearing a chain. How else is he being punished for his actions?
8. Marley '**set up another cry, and clanked its chain so hideously**'. What is the Ghost trying to do here?
9. Re-read the end of the extract. What does Marley now realise he should have paid more attention to in life? Write down a quote to support your answer.
10. In this extract, Marley is clearly feels remorseful for his actions in life. What does this mean?

This is the **key quote** from this scene. Through this quote, we learn that Marley takes full responsibility for his actions in life and therefore is accepting of his punishment in death.

With your teacher, zoom in on each word of this quote and discuss the connotations.

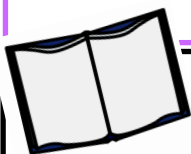
- 
- What type of word is this?
 - Why is Marley wearing a chain?
 - What could it be symbolic of?



"I wear the **chain** I **forged** in life...I made it **link by link**"

- What does this word mean?
- What type of word is it?
- What does it suggest about Marley's actions in life?
- What does this phrase suggest about Marley's actions in life?
- How might this act as a warning to Scrooge?
- What might Dickens be warning the reader through this phrase/quote?

At the end of Stave 1, Marley takes Scrooge to a window and shows him the many spirits who roam the earth as consequence for their sins in life. This is a last effort to scare Scrooge into chang-



Stave 1

The apparition walked backward from him; and at every step it took, the window raised itself a little, so that when the spectre reached it, it was wide open. It beckoned Scrooge to approach, which he did. When they were within two paces of each other, Marley's Ghost held up its hand, warning him to come no nearer. Scrooge stopped.

Not so much in obedience, as in surprise and fear: for on the raising of the hand, he became sensible of confused noises in the air; incoherent sounds of lamentation and regret; wailings inexpressibly sorrowful and self-accusatory. The spectre, after listening for a moment, joined in the mournful dirge; and floated out upon the bleak, dark night.

Scrooge followed to the window: desperate in his curiosity. He looked out.

The air was filled with phantoms, wandering hither and thither in restless haste, and moaning as they went. Every one of them wore chains like Marley's Ghost; some few (they might be guilty governments) were linked together; none were free. Many had been personally known to Scrooge in their lives. He had been quite familiar with one old ghost, in a white waistcoat, with a monstrous iron safe attached to its ankle, who cried piteously at being unable to assist a wretched woman with an infant, whom it saw below, upon a door-step. The misery with them all was, clearly, that they sought to interfere, for good, in human matters, and had lost the power for ever.

Whether these creatures faded into mist, or mist enshrouded them, he could not tell. But they and their spirit voices faded together; and the night became as it had been when he walked home. Scrooge closed the window, and examined the door by which the Ghost had entered. It was double-locked, as he had locked it with his own hands, and the bolts were undisturbed. He tried to say "Humbug!" but stopped at the first syllable. And being, from the emotion he had undergone, or the fatigues 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.

Glossary

Lamentation—expression of grief or sorrow

Wailings—crying out in pain or grief

Mournful— feeling of deep sadness or grief

Hither and thither—here and there

Piteously— appealing for help or sympathy

Enshrouded— covered or concealed

Repose—rest

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Marley's Ghost beckons Scrooge to come over to....?
2. What does Scrooge hear? Can you find a quote? What does this suggest about the emotional state of the ghosts? Why might they feel like this?
3. What does Scrooge see outside the window?
4. What were all the ghosts wearing?
5. Scrooge recognises one ghost. What does this ghost have attached to him? What does this suggest about the sins he committed in life?
6. Who is this ghost trying to desperately help?
7. What does Scrooge try to say at the end of the extract? What might this foreshadow?
8. What does Scrooge immediately do?

Stave 1 Review

G	Very confident
A	Not so confident
R	Need to revise

Stave 1 Knowledge Quiz				
Question	What is your answer?	RAG rate your answer.	What is the actual answer?	
1	Who is telling the story?			
2	The novella is divided into five _____.			
3	The narrator makes it clear that who is dead at the beginning of the novella?			
4	List three adjectives to describe Scrooge at the beginning of the novella.			
5	Finish the quotation: '_____ and _____ as flint'			
6	Dickens uses _____ to create an ominous atmosphere.			
7	Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, is said to be sitting in a 'dismal, little' what?			
8	How are Fred and Scrooge related?			
9	Fred is described as "all in a _____"			
10	What is Fred's view of Christmas?			
11	Fred is said to be a foil to Scrooge's character. What does this mean?			
12	What do the charity men ask Scrooge for?			
13	How does Scrooge respond to the charity men? Give a quote.			
14	What does Scrooge see in the door knocker of his house?			
15	Why does Marley visit Scrooge?			
16	Finish the quotation: 'I wear the _____ I _____ in life.'			
17	What is the chain that Marley wears symbolic of?			
18	What does Marley say was his business in life?			
19	What does Marley say will visit Scrooge?			
20	What does Scrooge see out of the window when Marley leaves?			

Stave Two

The First of the Three Spirits



13. The Ghost of Christmas Past

LE: How is the Ghost of Christmas Past presented?

Recap task: Complete the summary of Stave 1 using the words below.

Plot Summary: Stave 1

A _____, old Ebenezer _____ sits in his office on a cold Christmas _____. His clerk, Bob _____, shivers because Scrooge refuses to spend _____ on coals for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, _____, pays his uncle a visit and invites him to his annual _____ party. Scrooge reacts with bitterness and venom, spitting out an angry " _____ " in response to his nephew's "Merry Christmas!"

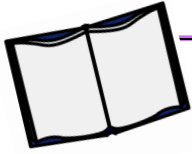
Two _____ gentlemen also drop by and ask Scrooge to donate some money to their _____. He refuses asking them if the " _____ are still open?", if so the _____ should go there.

Later that evening, after returning to his dark, cold apartment, Scrooge receives visitation from the ghost of _____. Marley's punishment for his _____ life is his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighted down with heavy chains. Marley hopes to _____ Scrooge from sharing the same fate. Marley informs Scrooge that three _____ will visit him during each of the next three nights. After the Marley _____, Scrooge collapses into a deep _____.

prisons	Jacob Marley	Bah! Humbug!	Scrooge	charity		
portly	spirits	Fred	sleep	Christmas	money	disappears
greedy	save	Eve	miserly	poor	Cratchit	



In Stave 2, Scrooge is visited by the first of the three ghosts—the Ghost of Christmas **Past**. The appearance of the ghost is described in great detail and can tell us a lot about what the Ghost looks to teach Scrooge in this stave.



Stave 2

It was a strange figure—like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand; and, in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

Even this, though, when Scrooge looked at it with increasing steadiness, was not its strangest quality. For as its belt sparkled and glittered now in one part and now in another, and what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness: being now a thing with one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs without a head, now a head without a body: of which dissolving parts, no outline would be visible in the dense gloom wherein they melted away. And in the very wonder of this, it would be itself again; distinct and clear as ever.

"Are you the Spirit, sir, whose coming was foretold to me?" asked Scrooge.

"I am!" The voice was soft and gentle. Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance.

"Who, and what are you?" Scrooge demanded.

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Past."

"Long Past?" inquired Scrooge: observant of its dwarfish stature.

"No. Your past."

Glossary

receded – disappeared / gone further back

diminished – become smaller

proportions - size

lustrous – shining / glowing

sheen - shine

fluctuated – went up and down

distinctness - clearness

dense – heavy / thick

foretold – told before / warned about



Task: Quick retrieval questions

1. List four things about the appearance of the Ghost.
2. What was it holding?
3. What came out of it's head?
4. How is it's belt described?
5. How is it's voice describe?
6. What has the Ghost come to show Scrooge?

How does Dickens use language to present the Ghost of Christmas Past?

Dickens has chosen to present the ghost in a way that signals to the reader what is about to come. The ghost is called The Ghost of Christmas Past and so Dickens has presented the ghost in a way that shows he is related to the past. There are three ways in which he does this:

1. The Ghost's **physical appearance is a mixture of all ages**
2. Dickens **refers to distance more than once** in describing the Ghost
3. Dickens emphasises the Ghost's **qualities of indistinctness** (not clear to make out) and **impermanence** (not a permanent being)

In presenting the ghost in this way we can see that the ghost doesn't quite belong in the immediate present and therefore hints that his visit will revolve around Scrooge's past.

Light imagery is also used throughout this extract. Throughout the novella, we associate light with purity, goodness and truth and the darkness with deception, wickedness and corruption.

With your teacher, you will explore the possible symbolic significance of the following quotes describing the Ghost of Christmas Past.

What the following quotes suggest about the Ghost and the possible lessons it will teach Scrooge?

"like a child"

"tunic of the purest white"

"held a branch of fresh green holly"

"had its dress trimmed with summer flowers"



"lustrous belt"

"from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light"

"belt sparkled and glittered"

"The voice was soft and gentle. Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance."

"figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness"

The Ghost of Christmas Past: Symbolism

Memory and Truth



Light

Symbolic of truth in the memories and hope of change.

Voice

Strong, quiet voice. Speaking the truth from a distance (the distant past).

Belt shining

Memories are always changing and being reshaped. Past can have a different significance to us through life.

Strange appearance

Mixture of child-like and aged. Symbolic of a distant memory of youth.

Holly

A traditional Christmas plant. Often used as a symbol of good will, particularly in the festive season.

White

Symbolic of purity, goodness, truth and childhood innocence.



Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Why do you think the ghost is described 'like a child'?
2. What does the repetition of the colour 'white' perhaps signify?
3. What does the 'green holly' symbolise?
4. What might the 'summer flowers' be symbolic of?
5. What does the 'bright jet of light' from it's head connote? What might it help Scrooge to see?
6. The belt 'sparkled' and 'glittered'. What does this suggest about the memories from the past?
7. The belt sparkles in one place and then sparkles again in another. What might this suggest about memories of the past?
8. The ghost keeps disappearing and then is described as suddenly becoming 'distinct and clear as ever'. What does this suggest about memories and the past?
9. What adjectives are use to describe it's voice? Why do you think this is?
10. The Ghost of Christmas Past is symbolic of **truth** as well as **memory**. What do you think Scrooge will have to confront in this next Stave?

14. Scrooge's Childhood

LE: How is Scrooge's childhood presented?

Starter task: Dickens has introduced us two ghosts so far in the novella. Answer the following questions about each ghost.

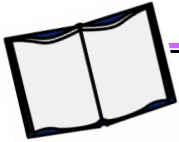
		
Who are they?		
Why have they visited Scrooge?		
List three adjectives to describe them.		
Write down a key quote about their character.		
What does the quote convey about the character?		

In this section of the novella, Dickens gives us an insight into Scrooge's past. This provides the reader with a better understanding of his character. For the first time, the reader may begin to feel **sympathy** for his character.

Q. What other characters might we sympathise with in the novella ? Why so?

*The reader may feel **sympathy/pity** for the character of _____ because_____.*

The Ghost of Christmas Past first takes Scrooge back to his childhood. The Ghost takes Scrooge to his **boarding school** during the **festive season**. The Ghost shows all the schoolboys merrily leaving school to be with their families at Christmas. Scrooge, however, is left behind.



Stave 2

As the words were spoken, they passed through the wall, and stood upon an open country road, with fields on either hand. The city had entirely vanished. Not a vestige of it was to be seen. The darkness and the mist had vanished with it, for it was a clear, cold, winter day, with snow upon the ground.

“Good Heaven!” said Scrooge, clasping his hands together, as he looked about him. “I was bred in this place. I was a boy here!”

The Spirit gazed upon him mildly. Its gentle touch, though it had been light and instantaneous, appeared still present to the old man’s sense of feeling. He was conscious of a thousand odours floating in the air, each one connected with a thousand thoughts, and hopes, and joys, and cares long, long, forgotten!

“Your lip is trembling,” said the Ghost. “And what is that upon your cheek?”

Scrooge muttered, with an unusual catching in his voice, that it was a pimple; and begged the Ghost to lead him where he would.

“You recollect the way?” inquired the Spirit.

“Remember it!” cried Scrooge with fervour; “I could walk it blindfold.”

“Strange to have forgotten it for so many years!” observed the Ghost. “Let us go on.”

They walked along the road, Scrooge recognising every gate, and post, and tree; until a little market-town appeared in the distance, with its bridge, its church, and winding river. Some shaggy ponies now were seen trotting towards them with boys upon their backs, who called to other boys in country gigs and carts, driven by farmers. All these boys were in great spirits, and shouted to each other, until the broad fields were so full of merry music, that the crisp air laughed to hear it!

“These are but shadows of the things that have been,” said the Ghost. “They have no consciousness of us.”

The jocund travellers came on; and as they came, Scrooge knew and named them every one. Why was he rejoiced beyond all bounds to see them! Why did his cold eye glisten, and his heart leap up as they went past! Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them give each other Merry Christmas, as they parted at cross-roads and bye-ways, for their several homes! What was merry Christmas to Scrooge? Out upon merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?

“The school is not quite deserted,” said the Ghost. “A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.”

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

Glossary

Odours—smells

Gigs— type of carriage

Jocund—cheerful

Neglected—uncared for

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Where does the Ghost take Scrooge?
2. Scrooge initially reacts to the scene by saying “Good Heaven!” and “clasping his hands together”. What might this suggest about Scrooge’s feelings towards this childhood?
3. The Ghost notices something on Dickens cheek. What might it be? What might this further suggest about Scrooge’s feelings?
4. Dickens describes a rural setting. List four things about this setting.
5. There are boys travelling in carts. How do these boys feel? Can you find a quote? Why might they feel this way?
6. Dickens writes that the ‘crisp air laughed to hear it’. What technique is used here? What effect might this have?
7. Write down a quote to show that Scrooge is initially excited about seeing the boys.
8. What does the Ghost show Scrooge at the end of the extract?
9. What is Scrooge’s reaction to this ‘solitary child’? Why might this be?
10. Why might the reader feel sympathy for Scrooge’s character at this point in the novella?

This is the **key quote** from this scene. Through this quote, we learn that Scrooge perhaps had a lonely childhood. It seems his parents have not come to collect him for Christmas and therefore he is left alone at school. The reader may feel a sense of sympathy for Scrooge as a boy and have a more empathetic understanding of his character.

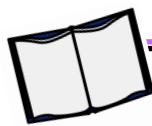
Discuss the following questions with your teacher...



“A **solitary** child, **neglected** by his friends, is left there still.”

- Where have we heard Scrooge being described as ‘solitary’ so far in the novella? How might this link to the quote above?
- How does Scrooge react to seeing this scene? How is this different to the way Scrooge is presented at the beginning of the novella?
- How does this quote develop our understanding of Scrooge’s character?

Later in Stave 2, we are introduced to Scrooge’s little sister, Fan. In this scene, the Ghost of Christmas Past transports Scrooge to another Christmas where his little sister comes to collect Scrooge from boarding school. They are **delighted** to see each other.



It opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in, and putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressed him as her “Dear, dear brother.”

“I have come to bring you home, dear brother!” said the child, clapping her tiny hands, and bending down to laugh. “To bring you home, home, home!”

“Home, little Fan?” returned the boy.

“Yes!” said the child, brimful of glee.

“Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home’s like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you’re to be a man!” said the child, opening her eyes, “and are never to come back here; but first, we’re to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.”

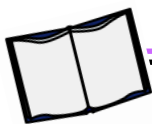
“You are quite a woman, little Fan!” exclaimed the boy. She clapped her hands and laughed, and tried to touch his head; but being too little, laughed again, and stood on tiptoe to embrace him. Then she began to drag him, in her childish eagerness, towards the door; and he, nothing loth to go, accompanied her.



Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Who is ‘little Fan’?
2. How does she greet Scrooge and what does this suggest about their relationship?
3. Look at Fan’s dialogue. What do you notice and what does this imply about her?
4. Fan exclaims that ‘father is so much kinder than he used to be’. What does this tell us about Scrooge’s family life?
5. Circle the verbs used to describe her actions. What does this suggest about her feelings towards Scrooge?

Sadly, later in Stave 2, we learn more about the death of Scrooge's little sister, Fan. Through this section, Dickens may be encouraging readers to feel further sympathy for Scrooge's character.



Stave 2

"Always a **delicate** creature, whom a breath might have **withered**," said the Ghost. "But **she had a large heart!**"

"So she had," cried Scrooge. "You're right. I will not gainsay it, Spirit. God forbid!"

"She died a woman," said the Ghost, "and had, as I think, children."

"**One child**," Scrooge returned.

"True," said the Ghost. "Your nephew!"

Scrooge seemed uneasy in his mind; and answered briefly, "Yes."

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Write down two adjectives that suggest that Fan was fragile.
2. The Ghost states that Fan '**had a large heart**'. What does this imply about her character?
3. What happened to Fan?
4. Who is Fan's son? How are the two characters similar?
5. Write down a word or phrase that suggests that Scrooge is uncomfortable talking about Fan's death.
6. What might Scrooge reflect on having seen Fan again?

Task: Think back over what we have learnt about our protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge.

Dickens encourages the reader to develop their response to Scrooge's character in the early stages of Stave 2. Use the writing frame below to explore how Dickens achieves this. **Challenge:** Try to embed at least **two** quotes in your response.



In Stave One, Scrooge is presented as _____. This is shown when/in through _____

However, the Ghost of Christmas Past reveals a different side to Scrooge. This is shown when/in/through _____

It is also conveyed when/in/through _____

The reader is therefore inclined to feel/think/consider _____

because _____.

15. Fezziwig

LE: How is Fezziwig presented?

Quick quiz on quotes so far....

Who said the quote OR who is the quote referring to?

1. "tight-fisted" _____
2. "Merry Christmas, Uncle!" _____
3. "I wear the chain I forged in life" _____
4. "Are there no prisons?" _____
5. "trembled" _____
6. "had a large heart" _____
7. "the spectre raised a cry" _____
8. "decrease the surplus population" _____
9. "Bah Humbug!" _____
10. "he sobbed" _____
11. "one coal" _____
12. "hard as sharp as flint" _____
13. "Mankind was my business" _____
14. "bright jet of light" _____
15. "solitary child" _____

In this scene, Dickens introduces us to a new character, Fezziwig. Fezziwig is Scrooge's former employer when he was an apprentice.

Fezziwig also acts as a **foil to Scrooge.**

Remember, a **foil** is a character who contrasts with another character, usually the protagonist, to highlight qualities of the other character.

Q. What might we expect from Fezziwig's character?

[Think back to how Scrooge treats Bob Cratchit to help you]



Further on in Stave Two, the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to his former workplace. Dickens introduces us to the character of Fezziwig, Scrooge's former employer when he was an apprentice. In this scene, we see Fezziwig preparing for the work Christmas party.



Stave 2

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 shows to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

"Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-prentice.

"Dick Wilkins, to be sure," said Scrooge to the Ghost. "Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick. Dear, dear."

"Yo ho, my boys!" said Fezziwig. "No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer. Let's have the shutters up," cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, "before a man can say Jack Robinson."

Glossary

Capacious - large

Benevolence – kindness

Jovial - joyful

How is Fezziwig presented in this extract?

Quote	Analysis
"He rubbed his hands together"	This image suggests that Fezziwig is excited for the Christmas celebrations and keen to prepare for the festivities that evening. Fezziwig's eagerness to embrace and celebrate Christmas with his employees stands in stark contrast to Scrooge, who is unwilling to even let his clerk have the day off.
"capacious waistcoat"	
"laughed all over himself"	
"comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice"	
"Yo ho, my boys!"	
"No more work to-night"	

Dickens then proceeds to describe Fezziwig's preparations for the Christmas festivities. He then goes on to describe the celebrations in great detail, bringing the Christmas party alive for the reader.



Stave 2

"Hilli-ho!" cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. "Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here. Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer."

Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn't have cleared away, or couldn't have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every movable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter's night.

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business. In came the housemaid, with her cousin, the baker. In came the cook, with her brother's particular friend, the milkman. In came the boy from over the way, who was suspected of not having board enough from his master; trying to hide himself behind the girl from next door but one, who was proved to have had her ears pulled by her mistress. In they all came, one after another; some shyly, some boldly, some gracefully, some awkwardly, some pushing, some pulling; in they all came, anyhow and everyhow. Away they all went, twenty couple at once; hands half round and back again the other way; down the middle and up again; round and round in various stages of affectionate grouping; old top couple always turning up in the wrong place; new top couple starting off again, as soon as they got there; all top couples at last, and not a bottom one to help them. When this result was brought about, old Fezziwig, clapping his hands to stop the dance, cried out, "Well done!" and the fiddler plunged his hot face into a pot of porter, especially provided for that purpose. But scorning rest, upon his reappearance, he instantly began again, though there were no dancers yet, as if the other fiddler had been carried home, exhausted, on a shutter, and he were a bran-new man resolved to beat him out of sight, or perish.

There were more dances, and there were forfeits, and more dances, and there was cake, and there was negus, and there was a great piece of Cold Roast, and there was a great piece of Cold Boiled, and there were mince-pies, and plenty of beer. But the great effect of the evening came after the Roast and Boiled, when the fiddler (an artful dog, mind! The sort of man who knew his business better than you or I could have told it him!) struck up "Sir Roger de Coverley." Then old Fezziwig stood out to dance with Mrs. Fezziwig. Top couple, too; with a good stiff piece of work cut out for them; three or four and twenty pair of partners; people who were not to be trifled with; people who would dance, and had no notion of walking.

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Fezziwig is described as "skipping". What does this suggest about Fezziwig? What do we often associate this verb with?
2. What do you notice about the punctuation and sentence lengths in Fezziwig's dialogue? What does this suggest about the way he is feeling?
3. Look in the second paragraph. List four things about the setting.
4. How is the setting stand in contrast to the description of Scrooge's counting-house in Stave One? What does it suggest about Fezziwig's character?
5. List five different people who attended the party. Do you notice anything surprising?
6. Dickens lists the many people that attended the party. What do you think he is trying to convey about Fezziwig's character?
7. Dickens describes the guests chaotically _____.
8. Look in the last paragraph. What items does Dickens list? What does this suggest about Fezziwig?
9. What might Scrooge be encouraged to reflect on through watching this scene?

Challenge: Why do you think Dickens described Fezziwig's Christmas celebrations in so much detail?

16. The Christmas Spirit

LE: How is the **Christmas spirit** conveyed in the novella so far?

Quick recap: Fezziwig

1. Who is Fezziwig?
2. How does Fezziwig feel about Christmas?
3. Write down a quote that conveys Fezziwig's excitable and jovial nature.
4. Why is Fezziwig considered a **foil** to Scrooge's character?
5. What is Scrooge encouraged to reflect on through watching the scene with Fezziwig?



Challenge: What **theme** might Fezziwig embody?

Theme: A big idea

What **themes** have we encountered in the novella so far?

Challenge: Can you think of a particular example in the novella?

Themes in 'A Christmas Carol'



There are two parts to the 'A Christmas Carol' GCSE exam. It is very similar to the 'Romeo and Juliet' exam.

Section A: Analyse the presentation of a character or setting in a given extract [AO2—20 marks]

Section B: Explore the importance of a character, setting or theme in the rest of the novella. [AO1-20 marks]

It is therefore important that you know the key themes in the novella and can think of specific examples [at least three] of where the theme is shown in the novella.

There are five core themes in the novella

- Poverty/social responsibility
- Family/relationships
- Christmas/Christmas spirit
- Supernatural
- Redemption/change/transformation

Today, we will focus on the presentation of **Christmas** in the novella.



Firstly...what do you associate with Christmas or having the Christmas spirit?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



Dickens and Christmas [taken 'Sketches by Boz' by Charles Dickens]

A Christmas family-party! We know nothing in nature more delightful! There seems a magic in the very name of Christmas. Petty jealousies and discords are forgotten; social feelings are awakened, in bosoms to which they have long been strangers; father and son, or brother and sister, who have met and passed with averted gaze, or a look of cold recognition, for months before, proffer and return the cordial embrace, and bury their past animosities in their present happiness. Kindly hearts that have yearned towards each other, but have been withheld by false notions of pride and self-dignity, are again reunited, and all is kindness and benevolence! Would that Christmas lasted the whole year through (as it ought), and that the prejudices and passions which deform our better nature, were never called into action among those to whom they should ever be strangers!

With your teacher, read the extract above and discuss the following question.

Q. What does Dickens associate with Christmas and having the Christmas Spirit?

Make a list as a class and note down any other ideas above.

Task: Note down which characters/settings/events **embody the Christmas spirit** so far in the novella. You can also make a note of characters/settings/events which demonstrate **a lack of Christmas spirit**.

Challenge: Can you think of a short quote to support your example?

Christmas Spirit



Fred, Scrooge's Nephew
is full of Christmas
Spirit

"All in a glow"

Happy and joyful
"Merry Christmas!"

Invites Scrooge
to Christmas
dinner

Challenge: Look over your examples. What you think Dickens is trying to teach the reader about the Christmas spirit?

Explain how the **Christmas spirit** is portrayed elsewhere in the novella.

<u>Opening Statement</u> Dickens presents/conveys/emphasises/portrays the theme of ____ through/ as ____.	<u>Where and when in the novella?</u>	<u>Quote</u>	<u>Explain</u> Suggests/implies/ Emphasises/highlights Reiterates/indicates	Link to another quote or example in the novella (can mirror/emphasise/contrast/reinforce the previous example)	<u>Importance</u> What <u>is</u> Dickens trying to show/teach the reader about Christmas and having the Christmas spirit?

Suggested exam question

From Stave 2, Fezziwig is shown to be celebrating Christmas by hosting a party for his employees, relatives and friends.

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 shows to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

"Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-prentice.

"Dick Wilkins, to be sure," said Scrooge to the Ghost. "Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick. Dear, dear."

"Yo ho, my boys!" said Fezziwig. "No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer. Let's have the shutters up," cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, "before a man can say Jack Robinson."

You wouldn't believe how those two fellows went at it. They charged into the street with the shutters -- one, two, three -- had them up in their places -- four, five, six -- barred them and pinned them -- seven, eight, nine -- and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.

"Hilli-ho!" cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. "Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here. Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer."

Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn't have cleared away, or couldn't have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every movable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter's night.

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business. In came the housemaid, with her cousin, the baker. In came the cook, with her brother's particular friend, the milkman. In came the boy from over the way, who was suspected of not having board enough from his master; trying to hide himself behind the girl from next door but one, who was proved to have had her ears pulled by her mistress. In they all came, one after another; some shyly, some boldly, some gracefully, some awkwardly, some pushing, some pulling; in they all came, anyhow and everyhow. Away they all went, twenty couple at once; hands half round and back again the other way; down the middle and up again; round and round in various stages of affectionate grouping; old top couple always turning up in the wrong place; new top couple starting off again, as soon as they got there; all top couples at last, and not a bottom one to help them.

Question: A Christmas Carol

- (a) Explore how Dickens presents Fezziwig in this extract. **[20 marks]**

Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.

- (b) In this extract, Fezziwig is shown to embrace the Christmas spirit. **[20 marks]**

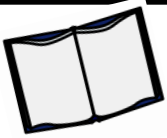
Explain how the Christmas spirit is portrayed elsewhere in the novel.

17. Belle

LE: Who is Belle and what do learn about Scrooge through this scene?

A Reminder of Stave One!	A Reminder of Stave Two!
<p>1. Who is Jacob Marley?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scrooge's office clerk b. Scrooge's current business partner c. Scrooge's former business partner d. Scrooge's nephew <p>2. Who is Bob Cratchit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scrooge's office clerk b. Scrooge's current business partner c. Scrooge's former business partner d. Scrooge's nephew <p>3. Scrooge is a solitary as an...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A shrew b. An oyster c. A crab d. A hermit <p>4. Who are the charitable gentlemen collecting for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ignorance and Want b. Orphans and Children c. Poor and Destitute d. Workhouses and Prisons <p>5. What does Scrooge want to decrease?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The surplus population b. Joy in Christmas c. The amount given to charity d. Bob Cratchit's wages <p>6. What is Marley weighed down by?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Heavy sandbags b. Chains made of padlocks and cashboxes c. His guilty conscience d. Iron weights <p>7. What does Marley say was his 'business'?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Making profit b. Charitable acts c. Mankind d. Helping Scrooge 	<p>8. Who or what is Fezziwig?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The local wig shop b. The name of Scrooge's favourite drink c. Scrooge's crazy uncle d. Scrooge's boss when he was younger <p>9. What does Scrooge come to understand after viewing the Fezziwig scene?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How lonely he was as a young man b. That everyone knew how to have fun except him c. The benefits of kindness d. He needs to work harder <p>10. What is the first place the ghost takes Scrooge to visit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. His grandmother's kitchen b. His first office c. His boyhood schoolhouse d. His college dorm room e. His first place of work <p>11. How is Scrooge described as a schoolboy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Solitary b. Sociable c. Sinister d. Secretive <p>12. Fan is described as having...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A large brain b. A large heart c. A large eye d. A large personality <p>13. What comes out of the Ghost of Christmas Past's head?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A bright jet of steam b. A bright jet of smoke c. A bright jet of light d. A bright jet of holly

In the final scene of Stave 2, Dickens introduces us to Belle, Scrooge's ex-fiancée. In this scene, Belle has come to see Scrooge because she is unhappy in their relationship because she believes he has chosen money over love.



Stave 2

He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.



"It matters little," she said, softly. "To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve."

"What Idol has displaced you?" he rejoined.

"A golden one."

"This is the even-handed dealing of the world!" he said. "There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!"

"You fear the world too much," she answered, gently. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?"

"What then?" he retorted. "Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you."

She shook her head.

"Am I?"

"Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You are changed. When it was made, you were another man."

"I was a boy," he said impatiently.

"Your own feeling tells you that you were not what you are," she returned. "I am. That which promised happiness when we were one in heart, is fraught with misery now that we are two. How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I have thought of it, and can release you."

"Have I ever sought release?"

"In words. No. Never."

"You may—the memory of what is past half makes me hope you will—have pain in this. A very, very brief time, and you will dismiss the recollection of it, gladly, as an unprofitable dream, from which it happened well that you awoke. May you be happy in the life you have chosen!"

She left him, and they parted.

Quick retrieval questions

1. Re-read the first paragraph. What two words or phrases indicate that Belle might be upset?
2. What does Belle feel has displaced her?
3. What does Scrooge believe is the hardest thing to bear?
4. Write down a quote to show that Belle believes Scrooge has been consumed by greed.
5. When did they get engaged?
6. What has changed since they got engaged?
7. What happens at the end of the extract? What does this indicate the reader?

Task: Re-read this section of the extract and complete the questions below. Focus on the words/phrases highlighted in red.

“It matters little,” she said softly. “To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and, if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come as I would have tried to do. I have no just cause to grieve.”

“What idol has displaced you?” he rejoined.

“A golden one.”

Glossary

Idol— an object of worship

Displaced— to remove from the usual place

1. What are the connotations of the word “idol”?
2. A “golden” idol has replaced Belle. What does this suggest has replaced her?
3. What do “golden” and “idol” suggest about Scrooge’s behaviour?
4. Why do you think ‘Idol’ is capitalised in some instances in the extract?
5. What does she wish that the new “idol” will give Scrooge? Has it managed to do this?
6. What might Scrooge realise through watching this scene with Belle?

What can do we learn through Belle?

Dickens uses Belle to help convey how our actions can impact upon others. Belle is presented as a kind, honest and perceptive character for this reason. We are supposed to feel sympathy for her and disappointment with Scrooge, which, in turn, would hopefully make Dickens’ readers consider their own behaviour.

Q. How do you think Scrooge will react to watching this scene from his past?

In the final scene of Stave 2, Scrooge is shown Belle once more. She now lives with her husband and children.

Scrooge becomes deeply distressed by this scene and desperately asks the Ghost to 'remove' him from this place.



Stave 2

"Spirit!" said Scrooge in a broken voice, "remove me from this place."

"I told you these were shadows of the things that have been," said the Ghost. "That they are what they are, do not blame me!"

"Remove me!" Scrooge exclaimed, "I cannot bear it!"

He turned upon the Ghost, and seeing that it looked upon him with a face, in which in some strange way there were fragments of all the faces it had shown him, wrestled with it.

"Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!"

In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its adversary, Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright; and dimly connecting that with its influence over him, he seized the extinguisher-cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head.

The Spirit dropped beneath it, so that the extinguisher covered its whole form; but though Scrooge pressed it down with all his force, he could not hide the light: which streamed from under it, in an unbroken flood upon the ground.

He was conscious of being exhausted, and overcome by an irresistible drowsiness; and, further, of being in his own bedroom. 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.

Task: Answer the following questions.

1. How is Scrooge's voice described in the first line? What does this suggest?
2. Look carefully at Scrooge's dialogue. What suggests he is deeply distressed by what he has seen?
3. What does Scrooge attempt to do to the Ghost?
4. The Ghost's light continues to burn "high and bright" and despite Scrooge's best efforts "he could not hide the light". What might this be symbolic of?
5. What might Scrooge be feeling/thinking/regretting through seeing Belle and her new family?

Challenge: Complete the following sentences.

At the end of Stave Two, Scrooge is presented as deeply distressed by what the Ghost of Christmas Past has shown him **because...**

At the end of Stave Two, Scrooge is presented as deeply distressed by what the Ghost of Christmas Past has shown him **but...**

At the end of Stave Two, Scrooge is presented as deeply distressed by what the Ghost of Christmas Past has shown him **so...**

Stave 2 Review

G	Very confident
A	Not so confident
R	Need to revise

Stave 2 Knowledge Quiz

	Question	What is your answer?	RAG rate your answer. How confident are you?	What is the actual answer?
1	What is the name of the Ghost that comes to visit Scrooge in this stave?			
2	What comes out of the Ghost's head?			
3	Where does the Ghost first take Scrooge?			
4	Complete the quote about Scrooge "a _____ child, _____ by his friends"			
5	How does Scrooge react to watching himself as a schoolboy?			
6	What is the name of Scrooge's little sister?			
7	What does she say about their father?			
8	Complete the quote "she had a large _____"			
9	Who is Fezziwig?			
10	List three adjective to describe Fezziwig.			
11	What theme does Fezziwig embody?			
12	What is Scrooge encouraged to reflect on watching the scene with Fezziwig?			
13	What is the name of Scrooge's ex-fiancée?			
14	Complete the quote: "another _____ has displaced me"			
15	What does Belle say has replaced her?			
16	How does Scrooge react to seeing the scenes with Belle?			
17	What does Scrooge try to do to the Ghost?			
18	What continues to stream out of the Ghost?			



SCROOGE

Short-tempered
Hostile
Antagonistic
Unrepentant
Remorseless
Cold hearted
Miserly
Misanthropic
Caustic
Inimical
Vicious
Uncharitable
Detached
Ostracised
Ignorant
Unsettled
Frightened
Contrite
Remorseful
Atoning
Responsibility
Microcosm
Metamorphosis
Empathetic



FRED

Kind-hearted
Generous
Optimistic
Charitable
Christian
Mindful
Considerate
Obliging
Altruistic
Familial
Caring
Determined
Emblematic
Benevolent
Genial
Affable



BOB

Impoverished
Humble
Dedicated
Kind
Mild
Moral
Vulnerable
Christian
Obedient
Submissive
Compliant
Yielding
Grateful
Hardworking
Poor
Trusting
Forgiving
Virtuous
An antidote
Accepting
Affectionate
Devoted
Adoring
Cheerful



**JACOB
MARLEY**

Prophetic
Unhallowed
Reformed
Protector
Doomed
Condemned
Undeviating
Direct
Saviour
Greedy
Epiphanic
Burdened
Laden
Ominous
Appalling
Melancholic
Chilling
Foreboding
Tortured
Remorseful
Guilt-ridden
Regretful
Deterrent
Reprimand



PAST

Allegorical
Commanding
Curious
Light
Redemption
Unusual
Symbolic
Innocent
Unsettling
Peculiar
Indistinct
Unfamiliar
Strange
Memory
Angelical
Caring
Guiding
Gracious



PRESENT

Jolly
Giant
Genial
Honest
Jovial
Welcoming
Majestic
Hospitable
Charitable
Symbolic
Peaceful
Benevolent
Kingly
Noble
Grand
Magnificent
Grandiose
Impressive



FUTURE

Portent
Aphonic
Silent
Dark
Ominous
Macabre
Deathly
Stately
Grave
Fearsome
Spectral
Terrifying
Chilling
Harrowing
Intimidating
Dreaded
Menacing
Sinister
Threatening
Grim
Murky
Gloomy
Unearthly

Characters			Features of form (Novella)			Themes		
1. Ebenezer Scrooge	Miserly, mean, bitter, materialistic, unsympathetic, indifferent, cold, selfish, isolated, cynical, charitable, value driven, generous, happy, sociable, transformed.		1. Allegory	A story which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.		1. Christmas spirit		
			2. Novella	A novella is longer than a short story, but not as long as a traditional novel.		2. Redemption		
			3. Slave	A set of five parallel lines on any one or between any adjacent two of which a note is written to indicate its pitch.		3. Poverty and Social Responsibility		
			4. Omniscient narrator	A narrator that sees everything, including what a character is thinking and feeling.		4. Supernatural		
			5. Protagonist	The leading character in a novel.		5. Family		
6. Marley's Ghost	Materialistic, self-centred, terrifying, haunting, exhausted, direct, reformed, regretful, hopeful, selfless, wise		6. Tone	How the narrator or a character speaks; can also be set through description.		6. Appearance versus reality		
			7. Fairytale genre	A genre (type of story) that incorporates an element of the magical.		7. Loneliness and isolation		
			8. Pathetic fallacy	Where human feelings and responses are attributed to inanimate things or animals.		8. Time		
			9. Contrast	The differences between two characters or settings etc.		9. Education		
			10. Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.				
7. Bob Cratchit	Uncomplaining, tolerant, courteous, deferential, patient, civil, eager, pleasurable, good-humoured, playful, caring, tender, cheerful, loving, forgiving.		11. Foreboding	A feeling that something bad will happen.				
			12. Repetition	Saying the same thing more than once for emphasis.				
			13. Sensory language	Language that connects to the five senses to create an image or description.				
			14. Analepsis (flashback)	These are ways in which a narrative's dialogue re-order's a given story by "flashing back" to an earlier point in the story				
			15. Prolepsis (flashforward)	These are ways in which a narrative's dialogue re-order's a given story by "flashing forward" to a moment later in the chronological sequence of events				
8. Fred	Warm-hearted, empathetic, cheerful, optimistic, even-tempered, insightful, determined, generous, forgiving, jovial, enthusiastic, caring		16. Mirroring	When a character, for example, resembles another character.				
			17. Parallel structures	Using the same pattern of words to show that two or more ideas have the same level of importance.				
			18. Tension and suspense	A building of extreme emotion / anticipation where the outcome is uncertain.				
			19. Dramatic Irony	Where the reader knows something that a character(s) are not aware of.				
			20. Cliff-hanger	A dramatic and exciting ending to an episode of a serial, leaving the audience in suspense and anxious not to miss the next episode				
9. Ghost of Christmas Past	Contradictory, strong, gentle, quiet, forceful, questioning, mysterious		21. Similes	A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid..				
			22. Circular structure	The reader reaches a sense of closure when the piece finds it way back to the beginning of the narrative.				
			23. Foil	Something or someone with opposite characteristics to the subject, used to balance them out and even to draw attention to their feelings.				
			24. Personification	Attributing a human characteristic to something non-human.				
			25. Exaggeration	A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is.				
10. Ghost of Christmas Present	Compassionate, abundant, generous, cheerful, jolly, friendly, severe, sympathetic		26. Dialogue	A discussion or conversation, or simply the words spoken by a character.				
			27. Rhetorical questions	A question that is asked in order to make a point rather than elicit an answer.				
			28. Interrogative	A question that seeks to find something out.				
			29. Motif	An image that is repeated throughout a text showing the dominance of an idea.				
			30. Characteronym	A name which helps to give the reader an idea of a character's personality.				
11. Ghost of Christmas Future	Mysterious, silent, ominous, intimidating, frightening, reoslute							
12. Tiny Tim	Frail, ill, good, religious,							

