## GCSE Edexcel Literature

## 19th Century Novel

## 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Stave 3


Name:

Teacher:

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## Assessment Overview

## 19th Century text: 'A Christmas Carol'

## 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 <br> Students should be able to: <br> - maintain a critical style and develop an informed <br> personal response <br> use textual references, including quotations, to <br> support and illustrate interpretations |
| AO2 | Analyse the language, form and structure used by a <br> writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant <br> subject terminology where appropriate |

Recommended resources to help you

| Resource | Link |
| :--- | :--- |
| Full text online | $\underline{\text { https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Dickens/Carol/Dickens Carol.pdf }}$ |
| Abridged audio book | https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-a-christmas-carol |
| Film online (Disney) | -index/zbp9bdm |
| Short animated | Amazon Prime, Netflix, Disney+ |

## Stave Three

## The Second of the Three <br> Spirits



## 1. Ghost of Christmas Present

## LE: How is the Ghost of Christmas Present presented in the

## opening of Stave 3?

## Quick Recap: Stave Two

Scrooge meets the Ghost of Christmas Past. It symbolises $\qquad$ as Scrooge must relive his past to reconnect with his former, $\qquad$ self. First, Scrooge watches himself as a lonely child in school. He cries for himself and the reader feels $\qquad$ and begins to understand how he came to be so evil.

Scrooge takes the first step on the road to $\qquad$ by regretting not giving money to a child who sung him a Christmas carol. He then watches his sister, $\qquad$ , and we learn she dies - Scrooge feels guilty about his nephew, $\qquad$ .

Scrooge watches $\qquad$ throw a party for his workers. Scrooge begins to enjoy himself and learns that living a $\qquad$ is harmful and that being disconnected from people doesn't make life better.

Finally, Scrooge watches the break-up of his $\qquad$ with Belle: he becomes distressed as he is forced to see how a " $\qquad$ " has become his obsession (i.e. money). Scrooge sits alone and realises he hasn't had a friend since $\qquad$ and the ghost disappears; Scrooge falls into a deep sleep.

| memory | salvation | solitary life | Fezziwig | golden idol | Marley |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | engagement | innocent | Little Fan |  |  |
|  |  | sympathy | solitary life |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |



Look at the following impressions of the Ghost of Christmas Present:

Q. What can you infer about his character from the images above?

Now look at the words and phrases Dickens uses to describe the Ghost of Christmas Present.
Q. What else can you infer about his character from the words and phrases below?
a throne
a jolly giant
glorious to see
a glowing torch
one simple green robe on its head a holly wreath genial face sparkling eye
its open hand, its cheery voice an antique scabbard no sword the ancient sheath eaten with rust

Consider the words/phrases from the description of the Ghost: Who is the Ghost of Christmas Present and what is he like? Be prepared to share your ideas.

## Need a prompt?

The word, '...' makes me think/feel/imagine... To make us feel $\qquad$ , Dickens shows us...
I think Dickens is trying to present the Ghost of Christmas Present as...

Annotate your own copy of the description using our class discussion to help you.

# After a short sleep, Scrooge is visited by the second of the three Spirits: The Ghost of Christmas Present. 

## Stave 3

The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by his name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.

It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrifaction of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time, or Marley's, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see:, who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.
"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in, and know me better, man."

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.
"I am the Ghost of Christmas Present," said the Spirit. "Look upon me."
Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the
 ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.
"You have never seen the like of me before!" exclaimed the Spirit.
"Never," Scrooge made answer to it.
"Have never walked forth with the younger members of my family; meaning (for I am very young) my elder brothers born in these later years?" pursued the Phantom.
"I don't think I have," said Scrooge. "I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?"
"More than eighteen hundred," said the Ghost.
"A tremendous family to provide for," muttered Scrooge.

The Ghost of Christmas Present rose.
"Spirit," said Scrooge submissively, "conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. To-night, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it."
"Touch my robe."
Scrooge did as he was told, and held it fast.

## Glossary

Grove-a small wood or group of trees
Holly-traditional Christmas plant
Mistletoe— traditional Christmas plant


Ivy-traditional Christmas plant
Holly
Petrification—Turning organic matter into stone
Hearth-floor of the fireplace
Plenty's horn-a symbol of abundance and nourishment, commonly a large horn-shaped container overflowing with food, flowers or nuts.

Reverently—with deep respect
Capacious-large, having a lot of room
Plenty's horn
Ample-plenty of something
Garment-item of clothing
Wreath - a circular arrangement of flowers or leaves
Genial-friendly
Unconstrained demeanour-open and friendly
Scabbard-a long, thin cover for the blade of a sword
Sheath-a long, thin cover for the blade of a sword


Submissively-to obey or go along with someone
Compulsion-the action or state of forcing or being forced to do something

## Quick review questions

1. Look in the second paragraph. List four ways the room has been transformed.
2. The Ghost is described as a "jolly Giant". What does this suggest about his character?
3. How does Scrooge enter the room? Why might this be?
4. List four things about the Ghost of Christmas Present's appearance.
5. Look at the end of the extract. What does Scrooge ask of the Ghost? What does this suggest about Scrooge?

Challenge 1: What do you notice about the Ghost's dialogue? What might this suggest about his character?
Challenge 2: The Ghost mentions he has "more than eighteen hundred brothers". Why might this be?

## Analysis: The Ghost of Christmas Present

# 'There sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see; who bore a glowing torch... and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge.' 

Why a 'giant'? What is the significance of this?

Why does Dickens emphasise how high the torch is held?

The Ghost of Christmas Present symbolises generosity and goodwill (the Christmas Spirit).

## The description of the Ghost of Christmas Present

It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

| Quote | Analysis |
| :--- | :--- |
| "one simple green robe" |  |
| "it's sparkling eye" |  |
| "it's open hand" |  |

## 2. The Cratchit Family

## LE: How is the Cratchit family introduced to the reader?

## Starter task: Quick Quote Quiz

1. "Solitary child" The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge as a lonely child in Stave Two
2. "Mankind was my business" $\qquad$
3. "bright clear jet of light" $\qquad$
4. "father is so much kinder than he used to be" $\qquad$
5. "all in a glow" $\qquad$
6. "laughed all over himself" $\qquad$
7. "Idol" $\qquad$
8. "Good afternoon" $\qquad$
9. "Show me no more!" $\qquad$
10. "she had a large heart" $\qquad$
11. "jovial voice" $\qquad$
12. "like a child" $\qquad$
13. "decrease the surplus population" $\qquad$
14. "no more work tonight" $\qquad$
15. "he sobbed" $\qquad$
16. "lost your situation"
17. "may you be happy in the life you have chosen" $\qquad$
18. "I can't afford to make idle people merry" $\qquad$
19. "Bah Humbug!" $\qquad$
20. "I wear the chain I forged in life" $\qquad$

In this lesson, you will be introduced to the Cratchit family. You have been introduced to Bob Cratchit (Scrooge's clerk) already in Stave 1. In this next section of the novella, the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the Cratchit family celebrating Christmas. They are a very poor family but are grateful for what they have.

Think back to Stave 1.
Q. How does Scrooge treat Bob Cratchit?
Q. What is Scrooge's attitude towards the poor in general?
Q. Can you think of any specific quotes to support this?
Q. How might Scrooge react to watching this scene?

In this section of Stave Three, the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit his clerk, Bob Cratchit. The Ghost and Scrooge watch as the Cratchit family prepare to celebrate Christmas.

## Stave 3

And perhaps it was the pleasure the good Spirit had in showing off this power of his, or else it was his own kind, generous, hearty nature, and his sympathy with all poor men, that led him straight to Scrooge's clerk's; for there he went, and took Scrooge with him, holding to his robe; and on the threshold of the door the Spirit smiled, and stopped to bless Bob Cratchit's dwelling with the sprinkling of his torch. Think of that. Bob had but fifteen bob aweek himself; he pocketed on Saturdays but fifteen copies of his Christian name; and yet the Ghost of Christmas Present blessed his four-roomed house.

Then up rose Mrs Cratchit, Cratchit's wife, dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons, which are cheap and make a goodly show for sixpence; and she laid the cloth, assisted by Belinda Cratchit, second of her daughters, also brave in ribbons; while Master Peter Cratchit plunged a fork into the saucepan of potatoes, and getting the corners of his monstrous shirt collar (Bob's private property, conferred upon his son and heir in honour of the day) into his mouth, rejoiced to find himself so gallantly attired, and yearned to show his linen in the fashionable Parks. And now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came tearing in, screaming that outside the baker's they had smelt the goose, and known it for their own; and basking in luxurious thoughts of sage and onion, these young Cratchits danced about the table, and exalted Master Peter Cratchit to the skies, while he (not proud, although his collars nearly choked him) blew the fire, until the slow potatoes bubbling up, knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out and peeled.
"What has ever got your precious father then?" said Mrs Cratchit. "And your brother, Tiny Tim; And Martha warn't as late last Christmas Day by half-an-hour."
"Here's Martha, mother," said a girl, appearing as she spoke.
"Here's Martha, mother!" cried the two young Cratchits. "Hurrah! There's such a goose, Martha!"
"Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!" said Mrs Cratchit, kissing her a dozen times, and taking off her shawl and bonnet for her with officious zeal.
"We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, mother."
"Well. Never mind so long as you are come," said Mrs Cratchit. "Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and have a warm, Lord bless ye."
"No, no. There's father coming," cried the two young Cratchits, who were everywhere at once. "Hide, Martha, hide!"

So Martha hid herself, and in came little Bob, the father, with at least three feet of comforter exclusive of the fringe, hanging down before him; and his threadbare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable; and Tiny Tim upon his shoulder. Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame.
"Why, where's our Martha?" cried Bob Cratchit, looking round.
"Not coming," said Mrs Cratchit.
"Not coming!" said Bob, with a sudden declension in his high spirits; for he had been Tim's blood horse all the way from church, and had come home rampant. "Not coming upon Christmas Day?"

Martha didn't like to see him disappointed, if it were only in joke; so she came out prematurely from behind the closet door, and ran into his arms, while the two young Cratchits hustled Tiny Tim, and bore him off into the wash-house, that he might hear the pudding singing in the copper.
"And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity, and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart's content.
"As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

Bob's voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire; and while Bob, turning up his cuffs-as if, poor fellow, they were capable of being made more shabby-compounded some hot mixture in a jug with gin and lemons, and stirred it round and round and put it on the hob to simmer; Master Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

## Glossary

Dwelling—house, place of residence
Twice-turned -used to describe a second-hand garment taken apart and put back together
Conferred upon - given to
Gallantly—in a brave manner
Attired—dressed up
Yearned- longed for
Basking-to enjoy the warmth of something
Exalted—praised
Shawl-material worn over the shoulders
Bonnet- a hat, usually tied up below the chin
Officious zeal-bossy enthusiasm
Comforter- blanket

Threadbare—tattered, old or shabby material
Declension - a decline
Rampant - unrestrained
Prematurely-too early
Credulity - willingness to believe that something is real
Cripple - term used to refer to disabled people, now considered an insulting or derogatory term
Lame-having difficulty walking, now considered an insulting or derogatory term
Tremulous—shaking or quivering

## Comprehension Questions

## Task: Please answer the following questions in a full sentence

1. What does the Ghost of Christmas Present do to Bob Cratchit's house? Why do you think he does this?
2. How is Mrs Cratchit's dress described? What does it suggest about the Cratchit's?
3. How did the "two smaller Cratchit's" enter the room? What does this suggest about the way they are feeling?
4. Write down a quote to show the Cratchit children were in good spirits.
5. What type of meat are the Cratchit's excited about eating for their Christmas meal?
6. How does Mrs Cratchit greet Martha? What does this suggest about the family?
7. What trick do the children play on their father, Bob Cratchit, when he returns home?
8. Who is Tiny Tim? What do we immediately learn about his physical state? Can you find a quote?
9. How does Bob Cratchit say Tiny Tim behaved in church?
10. How is Bob's voice described at the end of the extract? Why do you think this is?
11. In your own words, how is the Cratchit family presented in this scene?
12. What might Scrooge learn through seeing this important scene?

Challenge: Bob Cratchit tells Mrs Cratchit what Tiny Tim was thinking in church. He explains that Tiny Tim said "he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see".
$\Rightarrow \quad$ What is this line a reference to?
$\Rightarrow \quad$ What does Tiny Tim mean by this?
$\Rightarrow \quad$ What does this suggest about Tiny Tim's character?
This is the key quote from this scene. Through this quote, we learn that Tiny Tim is physically disabled young boy who needs support from his family. Discuss the following quote and questions with you teacher.

1. What is a 'crutch'? Why might Tiny Tim need it?
2. What does the adjective "little" emphasise to the reader?
3. Who's shoulder is Tiny Tim on?
4. What does this image suggest about their relationship?

Challenge: What might Tiny Tim be symbolic of in the novella? London and so it could be argued that he intended to create a sympathetic embodiment of the suffering of children through the character of Tiny Tim. Tiny Tim's character allows Dickens' to engage with the reader's emotions and to encourage social change. Dickens achieves this presentation by carefully constructing his descriptions of Tiny Tim: he presents him to be "as good as gold", emphasising his good nature in order to appeal to the reader further.

## Tiny Tim

- Son of Bob Cratchit
- Physically disabled
$>$ "little crutch"
$>$ "iron frame"
Entrap as much as they support
- Carried by his father Emotional bond as well as perhaps a burden
- "good as gold" Precious and worth more than money
- Embodiment of the 'surplus population'
- Foreshadowing of Tiny Tim's death
"Bob's voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty"
- Used to evoke sympathy from Victorian upper classes


## Other Cratchit children

## Go even further.... the significance of Peter and Martha Cratchit


"We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, mother."

Although they appear only briefly in the novel, there are two characters that play important roles here. Dickens highlights the plight of the poor through the characters of Peter and Martha. Children like Peter and Martha would be expected to get a job in order to contribute to the family purse at a young age. This would have been out of necessity, rather than a desire for the parents to get their children working at a young age. As such, Peter and Martha represent a generation of lost youth. They have had to mature and grow up quickly for survival, sacrificing their childhoods in the process.

1. What is child labour?
2. Read the quote in red above. What might Martha's job be? What is the work like?
3. Who might Dickens be criticising through the characters of Peter and Martha?
4. How is Dickens' own experience mirrored through Peter and Martha?

## 3. The Cratchit Family at Christmas

LE: What can the reader learn through the Cratchit family?

Knowledge Review: Tiny Tim

1. Tiny Tim is the son of $\qquad$ .
2. Bob and Tim arrive home from $\qquad$ .
3. Tiny Tim is supported by a " $\qquad$ $"$
4. Tiny Tim is carried upon his father's $\qquad$ .
5. Tiny Tim is described as "good as $\qquad$ $"$
6. Bob Cratchit hints that Tiny Tim is $\qquad$ .
7. Tiny Tim is used by Dickens to evoke $\qquad$ from the reader.
8. Tiny Tim may be symbolic of $\qquad$ .

In this next part of the scene, Scrooge watches as the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas . Consider the following questions before we read...
Q. What might Scrooge feel watching the Cratchit family celebrating?
Q. What might Scrooge learn through the Cratchit family?
Q. What might a Victorian upper class reader learn through the Cratchit family?


In this section of Stave Three, Scrooge watches the Cratchit family as they enjoy their Christmas meal together.

Stave 3
Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course -- and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah.

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last. Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows. But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear witnesses -- to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough. Suppose it should break in turning out. Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard, and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose -- a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid. All sorts of horrors were supposed.

Hallo. A great deal of steam. The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day. That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastrycook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that. That was the pudding. In half a minute Mrs Cratchit entered -- flushed, but smiling proudly -- with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-aquartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.


Oh, a wonderful pudding. Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.
'God bless us every one.' said Tiny Tim, the last of all.

He sat very close to his father's side upon his little stool. Bob held his withered little hand in his, as if he loved the child, and wished to keep him by his side, and dreaded that he might be taken from him.
`Spirit,' said Scrooge, with an interest he had never felt before, 'tell me if Tiny Tim will live.' `I see a vacant seat,' replied the Ghost, 'in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.'
'No, no,' said Scrooge. 'Oh, no, kind Spirit. say he will be spared.'
'If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my race,' returned the Ghost, `will find him here. What then. If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.'

Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted by the Spirit, and was overcome with penitence and grief. 'Man,' said the Ghost, 'if man you be in heart, not adamant, forbear that wicked cant until you have discovered What the surplus is, and Where it is. Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die. It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child. Oh God. to hear the Insect on the leaf pronouncing on the too much life among his hungry brothers in the dust.'

Scrooge bent before the Ghost's rebuke, and trembling cast his eyes upon the ground. But he raised them speedily, on hearing
'Mr Scrooge.' said Bob; `'ll give you Mr Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast.' 'The Founder of the Feast indeed.' cried Mrs Cratchit, reddening. `I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it.'
'My dear,' said Bob, 'the children. Christmas Day.'
'It should be Christmas Day, I am sure,' said she, 'on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr Scrooge. You know he is, Robert. Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow.'

My dear,' was Bob's mild answer, 'Christmas Day.'
`I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's,' said Mrs Cratchit, `not for his. Long life to him. A merry Christmas and a happy new year. He'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt.'

The children drank the toast after her. It was the first of their proceedings which had no heartiness. Tiny Tim drank it last of all, but he didn't care twopence for it. Scrooge was the Ogre of the family. The mention of his name cast a dark shadow on the party, which was not dispelled for full five minutes.

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## Comprehension Questions

Task: Please answer the following questions in a full sentence.

1. What are the Cratchit family doing at the beginning of the extract?
2. Re-read the first paragraph. Write down three quotes that suggest the Cratchit family are excited.
3. The family look at the "goose" with "universal admiration". What does this mean? What does this suggest about the Cratchit family?
4. Dickens states that "it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family". What does this mean? What does this remind the reader about the Cratchit family's situation?
5. What does Mrs Cratchit bring into the room after a the main meal?
6. In the middle of the extract, Tiny Tim says "God Bless us, everyone". What does this line reinforce about his character?
7. Write down a quote that reinforces to the reader closeness between Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim.
8. Tiny Tim's hand is described as 'withered'. What does this mean? What is the reader reminded of?
9. How does Scrooge respond to this scene? What does he ask the Ghost?
10. The Ghost replies that there will be a 'vacant seat' at the Cratchit table. What does this foreshadow?
11. Write down a quote to suggest that Scrooge is distressed about the news of Tiny Tim's future.
12. How does the Ghost reply to Scrooge? Do his words remind you of anything?
13. Write down a quote to show that Scrooge is ashamed of his former-self.
14. Towards the end of the extract, Bob toasts Scrooge. What does Bob call him?
15. What does this toast suggest about Bob Cratchit's character?
16. How does Mrs Cratchit react to this toast? Why do you think this is?
17. Scrooge is described as the 'Orge' of the family. What does this suggest about the way the family view him?

We have not read this part of the novel yet. Using the extract, consider the following questions. Answer as annotations around your copy of the text:

There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty; and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker's. But, they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time; and when they faded, and looked happier yet in the bright sprinklings of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.

## What is Dickens saying about the Cratchits in this extract? How is Dickens presenting the Cratchits? Why is he presenting them in this way?



Look at the following quotes. Discuss the questions with your teacher to develop your understanding of the Cratchit family and their purpose in the novel.

What does the adjective 'sufficient' tell you about the Cratchits?

Discuss the theme of family. Why does Dickens include it?

# 'It was a sufficient dinner for the whole family.' 

Why does Scrooge need to see this?
What is the purpose of the Cratchits? Why are they there?

How are the Cratchits the antithesis of
How does Dickens use the Cratchits to emphasise the importance of Christmas?
handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were


Why is it important for Scrooge to see this? scanty.'

Why does Dickens go to such great lengths to emphasise the poverty the Cratchits live in?

Let's revisit the questions at the beginning of the lesson. What have we learnt?
Q. How might Scrooge feel watching the Cratchit family?
Q. What might Scrooge learn through the Cratchit family?
Q. What might a Victorian upper class reader learn through the Cratchit family? Challenge: How does the Cratchit family challenge assumptions about the poor and needy in Victorian society?

## Purpose of the Cratchit family

Go even further: Look at the statements below about this particular scene within Stave Three. Find evidence from within the extract to support each of these statements.

| Judgement | Evidence |
| :--- | :--- |
| Dickens uses Bob as a contrast to <br> Scrooge to highlight Scrooge's cold- <br> ness and cruelty. |  |
| The family show Scrooge and the read- <br> er that it's not necessary to have mon- <br> ey to be happy and that the love of fam- <br> ily is what is truly important. They show <br> what joy Christmas brings to poor peo- <br> ple. |  |
| Both Tim and Bob act as teachers of <br> morality in that they provide examples <br> of true, angelic goodness. |  |
| Dickens uses the family to represent <br> the hard-working, respectable poor at a <br> time when many thought, like Scrooge, <br> that poor people brought their troubles <br> on themselves. This is one of the rea- <br> sons that they are portrayed as such <br> virtuous people. |  |
| The family especially Tiny Tim, are the <br> human face of the poor. Scrooge <br> learns a bitter lesson when his words <br> on decreasing the surplus population <br> are thrown back at him. They act as a <br> catalyst for Scrooge's eventual transfor- <br> mation. |  |



## 4. Exam Practice

LE: How is the Cratchit family presented in this extract?

## Knowledge Review: The Cratchit family

1. Mrs. Cratchit is described as...
A) Brave in bows
B) Brave in ribbons
C) Brave in glitter
D) Brave in
2. The Cratchit children are described as...
A) Running round the table
B) Skipping round the table
C) Dancing round the table
D) Fighting round the table
3. The Cratchit family look at their $\qquad$ in "universal admiration".
A) Turkey
B) Chicken
C) Goose
D) Duck
4) Tiny Tim blesses...
A) All children
B) His father
C) Everyone
D) Scrooge
5) Bob toasts Scrooge, declaring him the...
A) Founder of the feast
B) Founder of Christmas
C) Founder of the family
D) Founding member of the company
6) The Ghost of Christmas Present tells Scrooge that there will be...
A) There will be a "vacant seat" at the table
B) There will be an "empty bowl" at the table
C) There will be a "spare seat" at church
D) There will be "one less mouth to feed"

## Suggested exam question

## From Stave 3, the Cratchit family are shown to be celebrating Christmas together.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire; and while Bob, turning up his cuffs-as if, poor fellow, they were capable of being made more shabby-compounded some hot mixture in a jug with gin and lemons, and stirred it round and round and put it on the hob to simmer; Master Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.

Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course -- and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah.

There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last. Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows. But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear witnesses -- to take the pudding up and bring it in.

Suppose it should not be done enough. Suppose it should break in turning out. Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard, and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose -- a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid. All sorts of horrors were supposed.

Hallo. A great deal of steam. The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day. That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastrycook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that. That was the pudding. In half a minute Mrs Cratchit entered -- flushed, but smiling proudly -- with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-a-quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.

Oh, a wonderful pudding. Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.
'God bless us every one.' said Tiny Tim, the last of all.

He sat very close to his father's side upon his little stool. Bob held his withered little hand in his, as if he loved the child, and wished to keep him by his side, and dreaded that he might be taken from him.

Question: A Christmas Carol
(a) Explore how Dickens presents the Cratchit family in this extract. [20 marks] Give examples from the extract to support your ideas.
"His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire"
"two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession. "

1. What does the image of the "active little crutch" suggest about Tiny Tim's character?
2. Tiny Tim is 'escorted' to the fire by his brother and sister. What does this verb suggest about Tiny Tim's relationship with his siblings?
3. Two Cratchit children go to fetch the goose and are described as returning with it 'in high procession'. What does this image suggest about the way they view the goose?
4. What are the Cratchit family doing?
little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped."
"one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah."
5. What does the noun "delight" suggest about the family's reaction to the goose?
6. What did Tiny Tim do in response to the carving of the goose? What might this action suggest about him?
7. What is Dickens describing here?
8. The reader is reminded that it is "cheap" but still the family look at it with "universal admiration". What does this suggest about the family?

## Analysis

"it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family"
"Mrs Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear
witnesses -- to take the pudding up and bring it in"
"Oh, a wonderful pudding. Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs Cratchit since their marriage."
"Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family.

1. What does the adjective "sufficient" mean?
2. What does Dickens remind us through this adjective?
3. Why was Mrs Cratchit "nervous"?
4. What does this suggest about Mrs Cratchit and the relationship she has with her family?
5. What type of word is "wonderful"? What does this suggest about Bob's feelings towards his wife and her efforts?
6. Bob describes it as a the 'greatest success'. How do you think Bob wants his wife to feel ? What does this suggest about their relationship?
7. What does the statement "everybody had something to say about it" suggest about the family?
8. Dickens mentions that the pudding is "small". Why do you think the family members do not mention this?
9. What does this piece of dialogue suggest about the character of Tiny Tim?
10. What does the use of the pronoun "everyone" further suggest about his character?
11. What does this image suggest about Bob and Tim's relationship?
12. What might the final sentence foreshadow? What might the verb "dreaded" emphasise?

Look back at the extract and your initial analysis. Choose 3-4 examples that you will use in your essay. Use this space below to plan your ideas before writing. Make sure to circle or highlight the words/ phrases/devices you want to zoom in on.

- Opening statement
- Short embedded quotes
- Subject terminology
- Language of interpretation
- Tentative language
- Detailed analysis
- Comment on effect on reader
- Connotations of words
- Link back to the focus of the Q

Loving
Caring
Excitable
Compassionate
Appreciative
Grateful
Jovial
Cheerful
Affectionate

Word bank

| Kind | Considerate |
| :--- | :--- |
| Thankful | Inclusive |
| Accepting | Close |
| Lively | Understanding |
| Devoted | Attentive |
| Loyal | Thoughtful |
| Supportive | Sensitive |
| Respectful | delightful |
| Humble | enthusiastic |

Dickens uses the image of Tiny Tim being "escorted by is brother and sister" to the fire to highlight the supportive nature of the Cratchit family. The verb implies that the siblings care about the welfare of their most vulnerable sibling, ensuring that he is settled and comfortable by the fire before beginning with their preparations for the Christmas meal. This is reinforced by the image of the two younger Cratchits setting out chairs for "everyone" round the dinner table whilst Bob Cratchit helps Tiny Tim get to the table. Here, even the youngest Cratchits are shown to contribute to the family's preparations for Christmas, reiterating the supportive and helpful nature of all family members. Meanwhile, Bob attends to the needs of Tiny Tim, once again highlighting the care and attention given to their most needy family member. Through these images, Dickens establishes the Cratchit family as a close-knit unit, where all family member support one another, particularly attentive to the needs of their beloved Tiny Tim.

## Scaffold

Opening statement
Dickens uses $\qquad$ : " 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


## 5. Fred's Christmas

## LE: How is Fred shown to embody the Christmas spirit in this

## scene?

## Quick Recap Quiz: What do we remember about Fred?

1) How are Scrooge and Fred related?
2) Who is Fred's mother?
3) Why does Fred come to visit Scrooge in Stave One?
4) How does Fred view Christmas?
5) Fred acts as a foil to Scrooge's character. What does this mean? Can you give an example?
6) What theme does Fred embody?

Complete the following quotes:

- "Merry $\qquad$ , Uncle!"
"all in a $\qquad$ "
"Come! $\qquad$ with us tomorrow"

In Stave One, Fred openly expresses his views on Christmas to his uncle, Scrooge. Re-read the below to remind you yourself of what he says about this festive time of year. Remember, Fred could also be considered a mouthpiece for Dickens and his views on Christmas.
"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!"

In this scene, the Ghost of Christmas Present will take Scrooge to watch Fred celebrating Christmas.
Q. What can we expect from this scene?
Q. How do you think Fred will be presented?
Q. How might Scrooge react to this scene?

In this scene of Stave 3, The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit his nephew, Fred. Scrooge watches Fred celebrate Christmas.

## Stave 3

It was a great surprise to Scrooge, while listening to the moaning of the wind, and thinking what a solemn thing it was to move on through the lonely darkness over an unknown abyss, whose depths were secrets as profound as Death: it was a great surprise to Scrooge, while thus engaged, to hear a hearty laugh. It was a much greater surprise to Scrooge to recognise it as his own nephew's and to find himself in a bright, dry, gleaming room, with the Spirit standing smiling by his side, and looking at that same nephew with approving affability!
"Ha, ha!" laughed Scrooge's nephew. "Ha, ha, ha!"
If you should happen, by any unlikely chance, to know a man more blest in a laugh than Scrooge's nephew, all I can say is, I should like to know him too. Introduce him to me, and I'll cultivate his acquaintance.

It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. When Scrooge's nephew laughed in this way: holding his sides, rolling his head, and twisting his face into the most extravagant contortions: Scrooge's niece, by marriage, laughed as heartily as he. And their assembled friends being not a bit behindhand, roared out lustily.
"Ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, ha!"
"He said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live!" cried Scrooge's nephew. "He believed it too."
"More shame for him, Fred." said Scrooge's niece, indignantly. Bless those women; they never do anything by halves. They are always in earnest.

She was very pretty: exceedingly pretty. With a dimpled, surprised-looking, capital face; a ripe little mouth, that seemed made to be kissed -- as no doubt it was; all kinds of good little dots about her chin, that melted into one another when she laughed; and the sunniest pair of eyes you ever saw in any little creature's head. Altogether she was what you would have called provoking, you know; but satisfactory, too. Oh perfectly satisfactory!
"He's a comical old fellow," said Scrooge's nephew, "that's the truth: and not so pleasant as he might be. However, his offenses carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him."
"I'm sure he is very rich, Fred," hinted Scrooge's niece. "At least you always tell me so."
"What of that, my dear?" said Scrooge's nephew. "His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it. He don't make himself comfortable with it. He hasn't the satisfaction of thinking -- ha, ha, ha! -that he is ever going to benefit us with it."
"I have no patience with him," observed Scrooge's niece. Scrooge's niece's sisters, and all the other ladies, expressed the same opinion.
"Oh, I have," said Scrooge's nephew. "I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself, always. Here, he takes it into his head to dislike us, and he won't come and dine with us. What's the consequence? He don't lose much of a dinner."
"Indeed, I think he loses a very good dinner," interrupted Scrooge's niece. Everybody else said the same, and they must be allowed to have been competent judges, because they had just had dinner; and, with the dessert upon the table, were clustered round the fire, by lamplight.
"Well. I'm very glad to hear it," said Scrooge's nephew, "because I haven't great faith in these young housekeepers. What do you say, Topper?"

Topper had clearly got his eye upon one of Scrooge's niece's sisters, for he answered that a bachelor was a wretched outcast, who had no right to express an opinion on the subject. Whereat Scrooge's niece's sister -- the plump one with the lace tucker: not the one with the roses -- blushed.
"Do go on, Fred," said Scrooge's niece, clapping her hands. "He never finishes what he begins to say. He is such a ridiculous fellow."

Scrooge's nephew revelled in another laugh, and as it was impossible to keep the infection off; though the plump sister tried hard to do it with aromatic vinegar; his example was unanimously followed.
"I was only going to say," said Scrooge's nephew," that the consequence of his taking a dislike to us, and not making merry with us, is, as I think, that he loses some pleasant moments, which could do him no harm. I am sure he loses pleasanter companions than he can find in his own thoughts, either in his mouldy old office, or his dusty chambers. I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him. He may rail at Christmas till he dies, but he can't help thinking better of it -I defy him -- if he finds me going there, in good temper, year after year, and saying Uncle Scrooge, how are you. If it only puts him in the vein to leave his poor clerk fifty pounds, that's something; and I think I shook him yesterday."

## Glossary

Solemn-in a serious, formal manner
Affability—having a friendly and good-natured manner.
Contagious - likely to spread to and affect others.
Contortions-a twisted or bent condition, state, or form.
Lustily - in a strong, healthy and energetic manner
Indignantly-in a manner indicating anger or annoyance
Earnest-resulting from or showing sincere and intense conviction.
Bachelor-a man who is not and has never been married
Wretched-in a very unhappy or unfortunate state.
Outcast-a person who has been rejected or ostracized by their society or social group.
Revelled-to get great pleasure from something
Aromatic-having a distinctive smell.

Unanimously—without opposition; with the agreement of all people involved.

Task: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What familiar sound does Scrooge hear at the beginning of the extract?
2. What adjectives are used to describe the scene? Challenge: What other setting does this remind you of?
3. How is Fred's laugh described? What does this reinforce about his character?
4. Who is described as laughing just as 'heartily' as Fred?
5. What does Fred seem to be laughing about in particular?
6. Fred states that he has 'nothing to say against' Scrooge. What does this suggest about Fred's character?
7. Why does Fred believe that Scrooge's wealth 'is no use to him'?
8. How does Fred's wife feel about Scrooge? Write down a quote to support your answer.
9. What does Fred feel for Scrooge? Write down a quote to support your answer.
10. Towards the end of the extract, Fred laughs again. What is his laugh compared to? How does his laugh affect the people in the room?
11. How does Fred believe Scrooge loses out at Christmas?
12. Write down a quote to show that Fred is a determined character, who values family and will not give up on Scrooge.
13. What piece of punctuation is repeated in Fred's dialogue? What does this suggest?
14. How might Scrooge by affected by watching this scene?
15. How is Fred similar to Bob Cratchit?
16. How is Fred similar to Fan?
17. How is Fred similar to Fezziwig?

Challenge: In what ways, does Fred embody the Christmas Spirit? Try and include a reference to what he says about Christmas in Stave One.


Consolidating knowledge of text so far...

| Quote | Who and when? | What does this suggest? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| "hard and sharp as flint" | A simile used to establish Scrooge's character in Stave 1. |  |
| "Dismal little cell" |  |  |
| "all in a glow" |  |  |
| "Decrease the surplus population" |  |  |
| "Bah-Humbug!" |  |  |
| "tight-fisted" |  |  |
| "I wear the chain I forged in life" |  |  |
| bright clear jet of light" |  |  |
| "solitary child" |  |  |
| "large heart" |  |  |
| "laughed all over himself" |  |  |
| "Idol" |  |  |
| "Show me no more!" |  |  |
| "it's sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice" |  |  |
| "supported by an iron frame" |  |  |
| "danced about the table" |  |  |

## 6. Ignorance and Want

LE: Who are Ignorance and Want and what purpose do they serve in the novella?

## Stave Three so far...

True or False?

1. The Ghost of Christmas Present wears a "simple white robe". $\qquad$
2. The Ghost of Christmas Present represents generosity and goodwill. $\qquad$
3. The Ghost of Christmas Present carries a sword with him. $\qquad$
4. The Ghost of Christmas Present blesses the Cratchit home. $\qquad$
5. In Stave 3, there is a sombre atmosphere in the Cratchit home. $\qquad$
6. The Cratchit family are dressed up in new clothes. $\qquad$
7. The Cratchit children are described as "running around the table". $\qquad$
8. Tiny Tim is supported by a "wooden frame". $\qquad$
9. The Cratchit family are in awe of their Christmas Day turkey. $\qquad$
10. The Cratchit family are portrayed as grateful and appreciative. $\qquad$
11. Tiny Tim's character is used to evoke sympathy from readers. $\qquad$
12. Bob Cratchit is portrayed as angry and resentful towards Scrooge. $\qquad$
13. Tiny Tim is symbolic of the most needy in Victorian society. $\qquad$
14. Scrooge is moved by the news of Tiny Tim's tragic future. $\qquad$
15. The Ghost of Christmas Present uses Scrooge's own words against him. $\qquad$
16. Dickens describes Fred's singing voice in great detail. $\qquad$
17. Fred states that he feels 'pity' for Scrooge. $\qquad$
18. Fred says he will give up inviting Scrooge to Christmas dinner. $\qquad$
19. Through these scenes, Scrooge learns the value of family. $\qquad$
20. The importance of embracing the Christmas spirit is highlighted in this Stave.

The last section of Stave 3 is a turning point in the novella. The reader will be introduced to the figures of Ignorance and Want who act as a warning to both Scrooge and the Victorian reader.

Before we look at this in more detail, consider what these two words mean.

- What does the word 'ignorant' mean?
- What does the word 'want' mean?
- Which do you think is worse: to be ignorant or to want? Why?


## Let's remind ourselves of Dickens purpose before we read this final section of Stave 3...

In the fall of 1843, Dickens visited Samuel Starey's Field Lane Ragged School, a school that "educated slum children," according to the New York Times. Dickens easily empathized with such children living in poverty, coming, as he did, from a poor childhood himself - a fact that set him apart from many other English authors, who enjoyed the social and class privilege of their births. To this day, Dickens is remembered for his empathy with those living in poverty. As his tombstone reads, "He was a sympathiser with the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed..."


When his father was sent to debtors' prison, 12 -year-old Dickens had to take a job at a blacking factory, where for up to 12 hours a day he pasted labels onto pots of boot polish. He was paid 5 or 6 shillings ( $£ 0.25$ to $£ 0.3$ ) a week for his labor, and that price went directly to help his family make ends meet.

On October 5, Dickens was asked to deliver a lecture at the first annual meeting of the Manchester Athenaeum, an institution that provided education and recreation to the labouring classes. Dickens used the opportunity to speak against systemic poverty and injustice: "Thousands of immortal creatures are condemned ... to tread, not what our great poet [Shakespeare] calls the 'primrose path to the everlasting bonfire,' but over jagged flints and stones laid down by brutal ignorance."

After delivering the address, Dickens planned to write a pamphlet titled, "An Appeal to the People of England on Behalf of the Poor Man's Child," treating many of the themes he'd spoken about in Manchester. However, the pamphlet was never written, as the author chose instead to give his economic ideas flesh and blood - and, importantly, a wobbly leg - in the form of a story.

The figures of Ignorance and Want are an integral part of Dickens' message about social responsibility. The characters embody the failings of society. They are a stark reminder to both Scrooge and the reader that if no action is taken, society will suffer the consequences.

## Who are Ignorance and Want?

Ignorance and Want are the symbols of the problems caused by poverty in Victorian society. The spirit says it's the fault of mankind that Ignorance and Want exist. Ignorance is used to reflect that people like Scrooge, who ignore the problems of the poor, create enormous social problems. They create children like this.

Want is used to reflect the booming population in Victorian times with many people 'wanting for' (go without) the basic necessities such as food and shelter.


Combined with the ignorance of the rich, this creates massive social problems, its creates children like this.

These children will grow into adults who live a life of crime, causing bigger problems and creating a cycle.

## Extending your vocabulary...

Ignorance and Want are allegorical figures in the narrative. An allegory is a figure, symbol or story which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political lesson. In this instance, the allegories of Ignorance and Want are used to warn Victorian society of the consequences of ignoring the plight of the poor.


In the last scene of Stave 3, The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge the allegories of Ignorance and Want. These figures act as a warning to both Scrooge and the Victorian reader.

## Stave 3

It was a long night, if it were only a night; but Scrooge had his doubts of this, because the Christmas Holidays appeared to be condensed into the space of time they passed together. It was strange, too, that while Scrooge remained unaltered in his outward form, the Ghost grew older, clearly older. Scrooge had observed this change, but never spoke of it, until they left a children's Twelfth Night party, when, looking at the Spirit as they stood together in an open place, he noticed that its hair was grey.
"Are spirits' lives so short?" asked Scrooge.
"My life upon this globe, is very brief," replied the Ghost. "It ends to-night."
"To-night!" cried Scrooge.
"To-night at midnight. Hark! The time is drawing near."
The chimes were ringing the three quarters past eleven at that moment.
"Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask," said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit's robe, "but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?"
"It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it," was the Spirit's sorrowful reply. "Look here." From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.
"Oh, Man, look here! Look, look, down here!" exclaimed the Ghost.
They were a boy and a girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude.
"Spirit, are they yours?" Scrooge could say no more.
"They are Man's," said the Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!" cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. "Slander those who tell it ye. Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And abide the end."
"Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge.
"Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. "Are there no workhouses?"

The bell struck twelve.

Scrooge looked about him for the Ghost, and saw it not. As the last stroke ceased to vibrate, he remembered the prediction of old Jacob Marley, and lifting up his eyes, beheld a solemn Phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground, towards him.

## Glossary

Protruding-sticking out

Wretched-in a very unhappy or unfortunate state.
Abject-completely without pride or dignity;
Meagre—not much of something
Ragged—old, torn, dirty
Scowling-frown in an angry or bad-tempered way.

Prostrate-lying stretched out on the ground with one's face
 downwards.

Shrivelled- wrinkled and shrunken

Enthroned-to seat in a place associated with a position of authority or influence.
Lurked - be or remain hidden so as to wait in ambush for someone or something.
Degradation - the act of treating someone without respect
Slander-the act of making false and damaging statements
Factious - likely to argue or disagree
Refuge-the state of being safe from danger

Solemn-in a serious manner

## Quick review questions

1. What does Scrooge see coming out of the Ghosts robe?
2. What comes out of the Ghost's robe?
3. List four adjectives used to describe the children.
4. What does the Ghost order Scrooge to do?
5. How does Scrooge react to seeing the children?
6. Who does the Ghost tell us the children belong to?
7. Which child does the Ghost say is more dangerous?
8. Again, the Ghost uses Scrooge's own words against him. Which words does the Ghost repeat of Scrooge's from Stave 1.
9. What appears at the end of the extract? What/who might this be?

This is the key quote from this scene. In this quote, Dickens provides a disturbing image of Ignorance and Want. Discuss the quote and questions below as class before we analyse the language more closely.

Why does Dickens make the Ignorance and Want children?


What is the effect of these adjectives?

'They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish: but prostrate, too, in their humility.'


Why is the significance of the fact they are 'prostrate in their humility'?

## Close analysis

They were a boy and a girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no per-
 version of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

| Quote | Connotations |
| :--- | :--- |
| Yellow |  |
| Meagre |  |
| Ragged |  |
| Scowling |  |
| Wolfish |  |
| Stale and shrivelled |  |
| Where angels might have |  |
| sat enthroned, devils lurked |  |
| Glared out menacing |  |

## Challenge questions:

1. Why does Dickens use such disturbing imagery to describe the characters of Ignorance and Want?
2. What have the children lost as a result of poverty?
3. Dickens uses lists of adjectives in his description of Ignorance and Want. Why do you think he does this?
4. Dickens uses contrasting imagery throughout their description. Why do you think he does this? Can you give an example?
5. The children "clung" to the Ghost. What does this verb suggest about them?
6. Why is the Ghost so intent that Scrooge look at the two children?
7. The Ghost declares that the children 'are Man's'. What does the Ghost mean by this? What does he want Scrooge (and the reader) to realise?
8. What in this extract indicates that there has been a change in Scrooge?
9. Why does the Ghost uses Scrooge's words against him?
10. Why does Dickens end the chapter like this rather than ending it with Fred's Christmas Party?

## Go even further..

Task: Complete the sentences below based on your knowledge from the text.

Dickens draws attention to loss of childhood innocence in the description of Ignorance and Want because...

Dickens draws attention to loss of childhood innocence in the description of Ignorance and Want but...

Dickens draws attention to loss of childhood innocence in the description Ignorance and Want so...

Dickens dehumanises Ignorance and Want in his description because...

Dickens dehumanises Ignorance and Want in his description but...

Dickens dehumanises Ignorance and Want in his description so...

## 7. Poverty

## LE: How is the theme of poverty explored in the novella so far?

## Quick recap: Ignorance and Want

1. Where do Ignorance and Want appear from?
2. List four things about Ignorance and Want's appearance.
3. Write down one thing the children are compared to.
4. Who does the Ghost say the children belong to?
5. Which child does the Ghost say is more dangerous?
6. How does Scrooge react to the children?
7. Which new character do we meet at the end of Stave 3?

## 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


Today, we will focus on the exploration of poverty in the novella.

- Family/relationships
- Christmas/Christmas spirit
- Supernatural
- Redemption/change/transformation

Firstly...what do you associate with poverty?

## What do we know about Dickens and poverty already?

"Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish"


## Ignorance and Want



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

| Opening Statement <br> Dickens <br> presents/conveys/emphasises/portrays <br> the theme of _hrough/ as | Where and when in <br> the novella? | Quote | Explain <br> Suggests/implies/ <br> Emphasises/highlights <br> Reiterates/indicates | Link to another quote or <br> example in the novella (can <br> mirror/emphasise/contrast/ <br> reinforce the previous <br> example) | What is Dickens trying to <br> show/teach the reader about <br> poverty? |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Dickens explores the theme of poverty through the figures of Ignorance and Want to warn readers of the consequences of continued deprivation. In Stave 3, the Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge two "wretched" children called Ignorance and Want. Dickens describes the children using disturbing imagery to shock and appal the Victorian reader. Their appearance is described as "yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish". This creates an image of two children who are slowly wasting away, perhaps due to lack of food and shelter. They seem to have become sickly and thin, with barely enough clothes to cover them. Furthermore, Dickens also highlights their hostile and perhaps even violent nature through the use of animalistic terms such as "wolfish". This may suggest that poverty has impacted them so deeply, that it is not only changed their appearance but also their personality, stripping them of their goodnature and childhood innocence. Later in the description, Dickens reinforces this sentiment, stating that where "angels" should have been, "devils lurked". Again, Dickens implies that poverty has caused a transformation in these children-they have lost their angelic nature prematurely and it has been replaced by the evil and cruelty associated with the devil. Through these allegorical figures, Dickens may be highlighting the dangerous impact of ongoing poverty, particularly on children. Dickens uses these figures to draw attention to horrible reality of child poverty in Victorian Britain so upper class Victorians could take more responsibility for the needy and destitute in society.

## Opening statement: Dickens presents

$\qquad$ as $\qquad$ and
$\qquad$ because/which/so/if/but/as well as/as ....

## Say when this is shown (without quote): This is emphasised when ...

 Quotes (try to embed)
## Explain and link to another part of the text/quote if you can

Interpretation: Dickens might be emphasising ...
Effect on reader The reader might feel/this reader might feel a sense of... Language of interpretation Tentative language

## A Christmas Carol Section B Scaffold

## Introduction

Throughout the novel, Dickens explores the importance of
Through this theme, Dickens is trying to suggest to the reader that

## Lanquage of interpretation

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


## Tentative Language

may/might/could/perhaps/possibly

## Q. Explain the importance of _theme] elsewhere in the novel.

Phrases to develop interpretation (AO1)

- Through this scene/quote, Dickens emphasises...
- The reader might feel a sense of...
- The reader perhaps understands...
- The writer encourages the reader to feel/think/believe...
- Dickens may be highlighting the importance of..
- Dickens reveals ... to the reader

| STAVE THREE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Question | What is your answer? | RAG rate your answer. How confident are you that you're correct? | What is the actual answer? |
| 1 | The Ghost of Christmas Present is described as a" $\qquad$ Giant". |  |  |  |
| 2 | The Ghost of Christmas Present is described as having an "open hand". What is this symbolic of? |  |  |  |
| 3 | The Ghost has a "scabbard" but no $\qquad$ _. |  |  |  |
| 4 | What does the Ghost do to the Cratchit house before entering? |  |  |  |
| 5 | Mrs Cratchit is described as being 'brave' in what? |  |  |  |
| 6 | What is the name of the Cratchits' sick child? |  |  |  |
| 7 | What do the Cratchits look at with "universal admiration"? |  |  |  |
| 8 | Who does Bob Cratchit name the 'founder of the feast'? |  |  |  |
| 9 | What do the Cratchits represent in the novella? |  |  |  |
| 10 | Complete the quote "God bless us, |  |  |  |
| 11 | What does the Ghost say will happen to Tiny Tim? |  |  |  |
| 12 | What does Fred feel for his uncle? |  |  |  |
| 13 | Who are the two children that appear from beneath the robe of the spirit? |  |  |  |
| 14 | Finish the quotation: ‘Yellow, $\qquad$ ragged, scowling, $\qquad$ |  |  |  |
| 15 | Who does the spirit say these children belong to? |  |  |  |
| 16 | Finish the quotation: ‘Where $\qquad$ might have sat enthroned, $\qquad$ lurked.' |  |  |  |
| 17 | Dickens wants the reader to feel $\qquad$ for the two children. |  |  |  |
| 18 | Which words of Scrooge's does the spirit repeat back to him at the end? |  |  |  |
| 19 | What key theme are Ignorance and Want associated with? |  |  |  |
| 20 | Which character is introduced at the end of Stave 3? |  |  |  |

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

INヨS3Yd


$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Jolly } \\
& \text { Giant } \\
& \text { Genial } \\
& \text { Honest } \\
& \text { Jovial } \\
& \text { Welcoming } \\
& \text { Majestic } \\
& \text { Hospitable } \\
& \text { Charitable } \\
& \text { Symbolic } \\
& \text { Peaceful } \\
& \text { Benevolent } \\
& \text { Kingly } \\
& \text { Noble } \\
& \text { Grand } \\
& \text { Magnificent } \\
& \text { Grandiose } \\
& \text { Impressive }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Allegorical } \\
& \text { Commanding } \\
& \text { Curious } \\
& \text { Light } \\
& \text { Redemption } \\
& \text { Unusual } \\
& \text { Symbolic } \\
& \text { Innocent } \\
& \text { Unsettling } \\
& \text { Peculiar } \\
& \text { Indistinct } \\
& \text { Unfamiliar } \\
& \text { Strange } \\
& \text { Memory } \\
& \text { Angelic } \\
& \text { Caring } \\
& \text { Guiding } \\
& \text { Gracious }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 人ヨาษヲW gOJVI

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Prophetic } \\
& \text { Unhallowed } \\
& \text { Reformed } \\
& \text { Protector } \\
& \text { Doomed } \\
& \text { Condemned } \\
& \text { Undeviating } \\
& \text { Direct } \\
& \text { Saviour } \\
& \text { Greedy } \\
& \text { Epiphanic } \\
& \text { Burdened } \\
& \text { Laden } \\
& \text { Ominous } \\
& \text { Appalling } \\
& \text { Melancholic } \\
& \text { Chilling } \\
& \text { Foreboding } \\
& \text { Tortured } \\
& \text { Remorseful } \\
& \text { Guilt-ridden } \\
& \text { Regrefful } \\
& \text { Deterrent } \\
& \text { Reprimand }
\end{aligned}
$$

|  | Characters | Features of form (Novella) |  | Themes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. $\begin{aligned} & \text { Ebenezer } \\ & \text { Scrooge }\end{aligned}$ | 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. |  |
|  |  | 3. Stave | A set of five parallel lines on any one or between any adjacent two of which a note is written to indicate its pitch. | 2. Redemption |
|  |  | 4. Omniscient narrator | A narrator that sees everything, including what a character is thinking and feeling. | $\begin{array}{ll}\text { 3. } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Poverty and } \\ \text { Social } \\ \\ \text { Responsibility }\end{array}\end{array}$ |
|  |  | 5. Protagonist | The leading character in a novel. | 4. Supernatural |
|  |  | 6. Tone | How the narrator or a character speaks; can also be set through description. | 5. Family |
|  |  | 7. Fairytale genre | A genre (type of story) that incorporates an element of the magical. | 6. Appearance versus reality |
|  |  | 8. Pathetic fallacy | Where human feelings and responses are attributed to inanimate things or animals. | 7. Loneliness and isolation |
|  |  | 9. Contrast | The differences between two characters or settings etc. | 8. Time |
|  |  | 10. Symbolism | The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities. | 9. Education |
| 6. Marley's | Materialistic, self-centred, | 11. Foreboding | A feeling that something bad will happen. |  |
|  | terrifying, haunting, exhausted, | 12. Repetition | Saying the same thing more than once for emphasis. |  |
|  | direct, reformed, regretful, hopeful, seffless, wise | 13. Sensory language | Language that connects to the five senses to create an image or description. |  |
| 7. $\begin{aligned} & \text { Bob } \\ & \text { Cratchit }\end{aligned}$ | Uncomplaining, tolerant, courteous, deferential, patient, | 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 |  |
|  | civil, eager, pleasurable, goodhumoured, playful, caring, tender, | 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 |  |
|  | cheerful, loving, forgiving. | 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. |  |
| 8. Fred | Warm-hearted, empathetic, cheerful, optimistic, even- | 18. Tension and suspense | A building of extreme emotion / anticipation where the outcome is uncertain. |  |
|  | tempered, insightful, determined, | 19. Dramatic Irony | Where the reader knows something that a character(s) are not aware of. |  |
|  | generous, forgiving, jovial, enthusiastic, caring | 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 | Contradictory, strong, gentle, quiet, forceful, questioning, | 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. |  |
|  | mysterious | 22. Circular structure | The reader reaches a sense of closure when the piece finds it way back to the beginning of the narrative. |  |
|  | Ephemeral | 23. Foil | Something or someone with opposite characteristics to the subject, used to balance them out and even to draw attention to their feelings. |  |
| 10. Ghost of Christmas | Compassionate, abundant, generous, cheerful, jolly, friendly, | 24. Personification | Attributing a human characteristic to something non-human. |  |
| Present | severe, sympathetic <br> Prophetic | 25. Exaggeration | A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is. |  |
| 11. Ghost of Christmas | Mysterious, silent, ominous, intimidating, frightening, reoslute | 26. Dialogue | A discussion or conversation, or simply the words spoken by a character. |  |
| Future |  | 27. Rhetorical questions | A question that is asked in order to make a point rather than elicit an answer. |  |
| 12. Tiny Tim | Frail, ill, good, religious, | 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. Charactonym | A name which helps to give the reader an idea of a character's personality. |  |


[^0]:    Glossary
    Bustle-busy and energetic activity

    Vigour- with energy and enthusiasm

    Universal admiration-everyone looking on with approval and respect

    Sufficient-enough

    Livid- very angry
    Withered—dry and shrivelled

    Unaltered—unchanged
    Penitence—the act of showing sorrow or regret
    Adamant-an unchanging attitude or opinion
    Rebuke- express sharp disapproval

    Founder of the Feast-the provider of the meal

    Odious - extremely unpleasant, repulsive
    Ogre - a cruel and ugly giant, a figure of mythology
    Dispelled - make disappear
    

