

## Stave 1- Marley's Ghost

### Key Quotes.

1. "If they would rather die...they had better do it and decrease the surplus population" = Link to Malthus. Believes the poor are worthless.

2. **Metaphor** "a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" = Avaricious. Scrooge cares for money above all else

3. "are there no prisons?" "and the union workhouses" = Link to New Poor Law. Victorian belief that the poor deserved their struggles and were dehumanised.

4. **Motif of Fire** "Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller", = Motif of fire. Scrooge is avaricious, he is unwilling to spend money on the comfort of his employees.

Ebenezer Scrooge is at work in his counting house. Despite the Christmas Eve cold, he refuses to spend money on coal for the fire. Scrooge turns down his nephew, Fred's invitation to his Christmas party and the request of two men who want money for charity.

Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley, who tells Scrooge that, due to his greedy life, he has to wander the Earth wearing heavy chains. Marley tries to stop Scrooge from doing the same. He tells Scrooge that three spirits will visit him during the next three nights. Scrooge falls asleep.

5. "I wear the chain I forged in life...I made it link by links" = Dangers of greed and Capitalism. Marley must spend eternity suffering to make up for the suffering he caused on earth due to his greed.

6. **Allegory** "mankind was my business" = Marley realises that he should have had social responsibility during his life and urges Scrooge to help the poor before it is too late.

### Key Vocabulary!

1. Social Reform
2. Classism
3. Impoverished
4. Victorian
5. Penitence
6. Exploitation
7. Morality
8. Empathy
9. Allegory
10. Benevolence
11. Social Injustice
12. Misanthropy
13. Omniscient Narrator
14. Isolation
15. Ignorance
16. Redemption
17. Philanthropy
18. Semantic Field
19. Avarice
20. Capitalism & Socialism

### Dickens' Techniques!

1. Motif of Fire
2. Pathetic Fallacy
3. Lists
4. Characters as tools
5. Allegory
6. Omniscient narrator
7. Similes
8. Metaphors
9. Symbolism



Miss Styles' Key to success with Dickens!

### Dickens' Messages!

1. Encourage social reform and empathy for the poor.
2. Change and challenge the mindset of middle- and upper-class capitalist views towards the less fortunate.
3. Celebrate the traditional Christian Christmas values of family, charity and love thy neighbour.

## Stave 2- The Ghost of Christmas Past

### Key Quotes.

1. "Yo ho, my boys! No more work tonight" = Fezziwig shows his benevolence by asking the employees to shut up early for Christmas and throws them a party. 'boys' implies he views them as family.

2. **Redemption** "I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now", "there was a boy singing a Christmas carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something" = Scrooge begins to show some social responsibility, realising how he has mistreated Bob as an employee, and the carol singer at the door.

3. **Metaphor** "Another idol has displaced me...a golden one" = Avarice. Scrooge loses his chance at love and happiness due to his obsession with money.

He wakes and is met with a ghost who is 'a strange figure'. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge into his past where the reader begins to learn why Scrooge is so misanthropic. Invisible to those he watches, Scrooge revisits his childhood school days (where he was a 'solitary child') until he is brought home by his sister, Fan; his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant named Fezziwig, and his engagement to Belle, who leaves Scrooge as he loves money too much to love another human being. He then sees Belle with a new family, and feels upset that he could've experienced this love. Scrooge sheds tears of regret and demands to be 'removed from this place' before being returned to his bed.

5. "the happiness he gives is quite as great as if it cost a fortune" = (about Fezziwig, defending him to the ghost which shows the beginning of philanthropic thoughts and a rejection of Capitalism)

6. **Symbolism** 'it wore a tunic of purest white'/'from the crown of its head there sprang a bright clear jet of light' = White - purity and innocence/hope + light imagery implies the ways the ghost can help redeem Scrooge



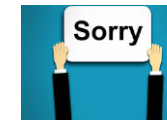
Family



Christmas



Time



Redemption / forgiveness



Greed



Social justice



Compassion

## A Christmas Carol!

WENT TO ENGLISH REVISION



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## Stave 3- Ghost of Christmas Present

### Key Quotes.

- 1. Redemption** “tell me if Tiny Tim will live” = Scrooge is most affected by the character of Tiny Tim, who he realises could be helped by his own benevolent actions. Highlights social inequality- no access to healthcare.
- 2. “bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty’s horn”** = The torch is symbolic, enlightening Scrooge as to the importance of being kind to others and having empathy. The Horn of Plenty (or “cornucopia”) is a symbol of generosity and charity, qualities which Scrooge sorely lacks. The torch itself is utilised to both physically and metaphorically “shed its light on Scrooge.”
- 3. Allegory** “two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable” = Ignorance and Want are used as allegorical figures to highlight the problems in society.

The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Christmas as it will happen that year. Scrooge marvels at the Christmas preparations – including vast fires in different homes (symbol- warmth & togetherness). He watches the Cratchit family eat a tiny meal in their little home. He sees Bob Cratchit’s crippled son, Tiny Tim, whose kindness and humility warm Scrooge’s heart. The spectre shows Scrooge his nephew’s Christmas party. Scrooge asks the spirit to stay until the very end. Toward the end of the day the ghost shows Scrooge two starved children, Ignorance and Want who haunt & shame Scrooge. He vanishes as Scrooge sees a dark, hooded figure coming.

- 4. List** “They were not a handsome family...not well dressed; ...their clothes were scanty...but they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time” = The Cratchits are used to represent the deserving poor. They are loving, caring + proud despite their struggles. Opposing lists used to highlight this.
- 5. “Oh no, kind Spirit, say he will be spared’/I see a vacant seat...and a crutch without an owner” = .Tiny Tim is a catalyst for Scrooge’s change**

## Stave 5- The End of It

### Key Quotes.

- 1. Simile** “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel” = Scrooge has completely transformed into a new person.
- 2. Social Responsibility** “I’ll raise your salary and endeavour to assist your struggling family” = Scrooge now has taken social responsibility and cares for his employee Bob and his family.
- 3. Motif of Fire** “Make up the fires and buy another coal-scuttle” = Scrooge is now warm and accommodating to his employees.
- 4. ‘To Tiny Tim...he was a second father’** = Scrooge understands the importance of family and is needed for Tiny Tim’s survival. Message to the reader that being socially responsible will save lives.

Scrooge rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He celebrates being alive and it being Christmas Day. Scrooge sends a turkey to the Cratchit house and goes to Fred’s party. He saw the charity men he rejected earlier in the text and donated a large sum of money to them. He waits for Bob to arrive (late) to work and plays a prank on him, pretending to be angry, before offering to raise his salary and help him with his affairs. As the years go by, he continues to celebrate Christmas with all his heart. He treats Tiny Tim as if he were his own child, gives gifts for the poor and is kind, generous and warm.

- 5. “Scrooge regarding every one with a delighted smile”= opposite to the description of Scrooge from Stave 1 – complete transformation**
- 6. Religious Language** “God bless Us, Every One!” = Tiny Tim’s final words, with the plural first person to include the reader, encourages the readership to take on board Dicken’s message about helping one another.
- 7. Repetition + List** “...as good a friend, as good a master, as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city...in the good old world.

## Stave 4- The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

### Key Quotes.

- 1. Simile** “a solemn phantom, draped and hooded, coming like a mist” = The Ghost of is silent & menacing. This, compared to the glow of the Ghost of C Past and the generosity of the Ghost of C Present is an ominous sign for Scrooge’s Christmases to come.
- 2. “It’s likely to be a very cheap funeral...I don’t mind going if lunch is provided”** = Due to Scrooge’s greed and isolation, nobody cares that he has died. Other Capitalists, similar to Scrooge only care about death if there is something in it for them
- 3. “Assure me that I yet may change these shadows...by an altered life?”** = Scrooge realises that he is the dead man and wishes to make up for his past deeds.
- 4. “the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth and misery”** = The slums of London highlight the social inequality in Victorian Britain.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge through a sequence of scenes linked to an unnamed man’s death. He visits: business men discussing a funeral; the poorest parts of London; Old Joe’s shop and Mrs Dilber pawning a dead man’s belongings; a body left alone in a room; Caroline and her husband celebrating the man’s death; the Cratchit’s mourning Tiny Tim’s death. Scrooge is keen to learn the lesson. He begs to know the name of the dead man. He finds himself in a churchyard with the spirit pointing to a grave. Scrooge looks at the headstone and is shocked to read his own name. He is desperate to change his fate and promises to change his ways. He suddenly finds himself safely tucked in his bed.

- 5. “lying, gasping out his last there, alone by himself”= evocative image of isolation and loneliness made to terrify Scrooge and the readers. Verb choice connotes desperation and fear.**
- 6. Metaphor** “tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone” = Scrooge’s redemption shown through the desire to wipe the name → wipe his misanthropic deeds away and repent for his sins. Name on grave symbolic of him rejecting the person he was and acknowledge the change he has embraced.

## Motif of fire

### Key Quotes.

- 1. ‘very small fire’ + ‘lump of coal’ [Stave 1, Scrooge’s office]**
- 2. ‘lonely boy sat near a feeble fire’ [Scrooge as a boy]**
- 3. Coal ‘heaped upon the fire’ [Fezziwig]**
- 4. ‘bore a glowing torch’ [Ghost of Christmas Present]**
- 5. ‘gathered around the hearth’ [The Cratchits]**
- 6. ‘Make up the fires and buy another coal scuttle’ [Scrooge instructing Bob at the end of the novella]**

The motif of fire is present throughout the novella, and helps the reader track Scrooge’s redemption. In the beginning of the novella, Scrooge has a ‘small fire’ and shows no signs of compassion, warmth, Christian family values. As the novella continues, we see different characters who do possess these qualities be around big fires. Scrooge, as he becomes kinder, appears to have a growing fire around him. By the end, his philanthropy is symbolised in his instruction for Bob to ‘make up the fires’. This is symbolic of his compassion, redemption and recognition of the importance of benevolence.

### Useful analytical verbs:

Create, critique, elicit, suggest, presents, emphasises, contrasts, shows, highlights, reveals, compares, illustrates, elucidates, represents, connotes, implies, infers.

### Useful words and phrases:

On a deeper level...                      ...might suggest....                      Dickens constructs the character to....  
Perhaps, might, could, may, appears to, however, alternatively

# Key Characters

Scrooge      Bob Cratchit      Fred      Belle

Past      Present      Future      Tiny Tim      Marley

# Context

**Working Class Families**

- Barely had enough money for food
- Lived in dirty, squalid conditions
- Childhood mortality was high
- No health care
- Lots of children didn't go to school (until 1880)
- Lots of families saw the workhouse as the best option

**Rich Families**

- Lived in luxury by comparison
- Children not required to work
- Wealthy girls educated at home, boys at public schools.

A Christmas Carol was written in 1843, with the aim of drawing readers' attention to the plight of England's poor. In the novella, Dickens combines hardships of the poor with a celebration of Christmas.

Life in Victorian Britain:

- Life expectancy was late 30s in 1837
- Britain was a powerful economic force
- The gap between rich and poor in Britain was massive
- The Victorian family was typically large due to high birth rates.
- In 1870 the average family had 5 or 6 children

# Popularity of the Novella


Published in 1843, A Christmas Carol was the most popular piece of fiction that Charles Dickens ever wrote. It was the most successful book of the 1843 holiday season. By Christmas it had sold 6,000 copies and it continued to be popular into the new year. Eight adaptations for stage had begun production within two months of the book's publication. The book is still as popular today, over 150 years on. Charles Dickens encourages readers to embrace Christmas Spirit and appreciate kindness and generosity.

Dickens was quoted to have said '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' about A Christmas Carol.

The transformation of Scrooge is vital to the novella. At the beginning of the story he is greedy and selfish. He then sees life in a new way after ghostly intervention. Dickens is using this to remind his readers of the importance of taking notice of the lives of those around us.

# The Author

*Charles Dickens in Statistics*

Born 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1812	Lived until 58	Died 9 <sup>th</sup> June 1870
First job at 12		Had 7 siblings
Wrote 27 novels /novellas /short stories	Wrote A Christmas Carol in 6 weeks	Had 10 children

Charles Dickens was born February 7<sup>th</sup> 1812 in a time referred to as 'the Age of Reform', where industrialisation was reshaping Britain and legislators were struggling to adapt to the demands of a changing population. He spent the first nine years of his childhood in Kent. His father was a kind, but financially irresponsible man who piled up tremendous debts. When Dickens was nine, his family moved to London. When he was 12, his father was arrested and sent to debtors prison. His wife and family were moved there, however it was arranged for Charles to live alone working in a blacking warehouse. When his father returned from prison, Dickens went back to school, eventually becoming a law clerk. He then served as a court reporter before beginning his career as a novelist. At 25, he completed his first novel **The Pickwick Papers** which was highly successful.