

A Christmas Carol

B

a: Stave 1

- On Christmas Eve, Scrooge makes his clerk (worker), Bob Cratchit, work in the cold.
- Scrooge does not want Bob Cratchit to have a day off for Christmas.
- He refuses an invitation to his nephew Fred's Christmas party and will not give money to the charity collectors, calling the poor "idle".
- At home, he is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, **Jacob Marley** who wears a chain he "forged in life" as punishment from God.
- He warns Scrooge that his own chain is already longer and to change his ways before it is too late.



e: Stave 5

- Scrooge wakes up on Christmas Day and is pleased to find he has the chance to become a kinder man.
- He buys a turkey for the Cratchits and attends his nephew's party.
- He gives money to charity and wishes everyone a "Merry Christmas".
- Scrooge becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim. He is now a generous and more caring character.

d: Stave 4

- The final **ghost is the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come** who terrifies Scrooge with visions of his death.
- This ghost is covered in a black cloak and looks like the Grim Reaper. It is silent.
- Scrooge must witness his own death and the death of Tiny Tim to shock him into action.






b: Stave 2

- The Ghost of Christmas Past** wakes Scrooge and shows him moments from his past.
 - Scrooge left alone at school because his father rejects him
 - Scrooge working for his first boss, Fezziwig – a kind and responsible employer
 - Belle breaks off their engagement because he is greedy.
- Scrooge has to face up to his past before he can repent his sins and become a better man. This ghost is unworldly and its light symbolises truth and innocence.

c: Stave 3

- The Ghost of Christmas Present** takes him to the Cratchit's home, where he feels sad when he sees Tiny Tim who is poorly.
- He sees how Fred celebrates Christmas with friends and how others celebrate Christmas together.
- He is also shown the horrific figures of **Ignorance** and **Want** who represent the terrible lives of the poor.
- This ghost looks like Father Christmas and represents the Christmas Spirit.
- Scrooge must see what life is really like for the poor and that they are good and hard-working people just like the Cratchit family.

f. A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens: Key Quotations

| Stave | Character | Quote | Images |
|-------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Scrooge Fred Marley | “solitary as an oyster” “Christmas time....a good time: a kind...time” “I wear the chain I forged in life...” (He is being punished for his sins in life.) |  |
| 2 | GOC Past Fezziwig Belle | “unearthly visitor” “Yo ho, my boys! No more work tonight” “another idol has displaced me...a golden one” |  |
| 3 | GOC Present Mrs Cratchit Fred | “jolly giant” ”brave in ribbons, which are cheap” Fred’s Home: “hearty laugh” (repetition of) “laugh”, “laughing”, “laughter” |  |
| 4 | GOC Yet to Come Cratchits | “a solemn phantom, draped and hooded, coming like a mist” “slowly, gravely, silently approached” “The noisy little Cratchits were as still as statues” |  |
| 5 | Scrooge | “A Merry Christmas to everybody!” |  |

Scrooge Stave One: miserly: they hate spending money
selfish: he only cares about himself



Scrooge Stave Five: charitable: generous to people in need
benevolent: kind

g. Context and Dickens’

Purpose:

- ✓ Dickens wanted get people to celebrate Christmas especially with your family.
- ✓ The ‘Industrial Revolution’ caused terrible overcrowding and poverty in towns and cities. Dickens believed that the rich should do more to help.
- ✓ Dickens believed that the rich should do more to help the poor through charity.
- ✓ The New Poor Law meant that if you became so poor that you could not look after yourself, the only place to get help was the Workhouse – a terrible place where people were forced to work to survive.

