

# Year 11 – A Christmas Carol– Charles Dickens

## The Plot



## Assessment Questions:

**BASELINE:** How is Scrooge portrayed in the opening of the novella, A Christmas Carol?

**FINAL ASSESSMENT:** Starting with this extract, how far does Dickens present Scrooge's personal journey of transformation?

### Characters (AO1):

**1. Ebenezer Scrooge:** Miserly, mean, bitter, materialistic, unsympathetic, indifferent, cold, selfish, isolated, cynical, charitable, value driven, generous, happy, sociable, transformed.

**2. Marley's Ghost:** Materialistic, self-centred, terrifying, haunting, exhausted, direct, reformed, regretful, hopeful, selfless, wise

**3. Bob Cratchit:** Uncomplaining, tolerant, courteous, deferential, patient, civil, eager, pleasurable, good-humoured, playful, caring, tender, cheerful, loving, forgiving.

**4. Fred:** Warm-hearted, empathetic, cheerful, optimistic, even-tempered, insightful, determined, generous, forgiving, jovial, enthusiastic, caring

**5. Ghost of Christmas Past:** Contradictory, strong, gentle, quiet, forceful, questioning, mysterious

**6. Ghost of Christmas Present:** Compassionate, abundant, generous, cheerful, jolly, friendly, severe, sympathetic

**7. Ghost of Christmas Future:** Mysterious, silent, ominous, intimidating, frightening, resolute

**8. Tiny Tim:** Frail, ill, good, religious



Use the key quotes to help you answer your essay questions:

### Stave 1:

'He was as tight-fisted as a grind stone' – about Scrooge

'His face was ruddy and handsome, his eyes sparkled' – Fred (presented as the opposite to Scrooge)

'I wear the chain I forged in life' –Ghost of Marley

### Stave Two

'It wore a tunic of the purest white... from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light' – Ghost of Christmas Past

'A lonely boy was sat reading near a feeble fire' – Scrooge as a young boy

'Your lip is trembling,' said the Ghost, 'And what is that upon your cheek?' – first sign of emotion from Scrooge

### Stave Three

'There sat a jolly Giant, who wore a glowing torch...it was clothed in one simple green robe' – Ghost of Christmas Present

'God bless us everyone!' – Tiny Tim's positive attitude

'Tell me Tiny Tim will live...' – Scrooge showing compassion.

### Stave Four

'The phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached' – Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

'I fear you more than any spectre I have seen' – Scrooge

'Tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!' – Scrooge desperate to change his ways

'I will honour Christmas in my heart' - Scrooge

### Stave Five

'I'll raise your salary Bob and endeavour to assist your struggling family' – Scrooge changing his ways.

'to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he [Scrooge] was a second father' – Scrooge changing his ways

'Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happiness!' – repetition shows Scrooge's joy at the end.



## Context (AO3):

### Dickens' Life

1. Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812 in Hampshire into a middle class family.
2. His dad was imprisoned for debt leading to poverty for the family.
3. Charles was put to work at Warren's Blacking Factory.
4. Dickens found employment as an office boy at an attorneys.
5. A Christmas Carol was written in 1843

### Industrial Revolution

1. From 1780 factory owners in Britain began to use coal-fired steam engines to power the machines in big factories, bringing great fortune.
2. Transition from traditional farming methods to machinery led to Industrial revolution.
3. People flocked from the countryside to the cities. London's population between 1800 and 1900 from 1 million to 6 million people. This led to over-crowding and hunger, disease and crime. There were no proper drainage / sewage systems. Many families had to share one tap / toilet. Children suffered the most and were exploited by factory owners who forced them to work long hours in dangerous conditions.

### Charity

1. Industrial revolution led to a gap between the rich and poor with many struggling to survive relying on the generosity of those better off than themselves.
2. Some philanthropists were keen to enhance the lives of the workers. Cadburys tried to provide quality homes and improve lifestyles of workers at their factory in Bournville.

### Education

1. Dickens believed strongly in the importance of education.
2. As part of his campaign against the treatment of the poor, Dickens worked with a friend called Angela Burdett-Coutts.
3. In 1840s, Dickens and Coutts became involved in the Ragged Schools. The aim was to provide poor children with basic education.
4. Dickens believed that it is through education that one can leave poverty.

### Religion

1. Christianity held a strong influence in Victorian Britain, especially amongst the middle / upper classes.
2. Good Christians believed in a strict moral code – attending church regularly, avoiding alcohol and exercise sexual restraint.
3. Dicken's view on Christianity was different. He believed that to be a good Christian people should seek out opportunities to do good deeds for other people.
4. Sabbatarianism – when people spent Sunday going to church and resting. Dickens was opposed to this because it meant that working poorer people were denied any enjoyment on their one day off – everything was shut.
5. Poorer people didn't have ovens at home so often food cooked by bakers. Sabbatarianism meant that many people couldn't get a hot meal on Sundays because the bakers were shut.

## A Christmas Carol vocabulary

### Tier 2:

Institutions

Altruistic

Cathartic

Salutary

Paucity/ Excess

Philanthropic/ Misanthropic

Avaricious/ Generous

Charitable/ Uncharitable

Redemption

Pejorative

### Tier 3:

Didactic tone

Asyndetic listing

Omniscient narrator

Intrusive narrator

Figurative language

Semantic field

Novella

Pathetic fallacy

Apostrophe

Physiognomy

## Top Tips

- Create a mind map for each character with key quotes, themes and contextual information they relate to.
- Revise context and Dickens intentions!



The ghosts that visit Scrooge