

Before you read the book ...

1. Find out ten interesting facts about Charles Dickens.
2. Find out what these words / writing techniques mean:
 - 🕯 Allegory
 - 🕯 Novella
 - 🕯 Time travel narrative
 - 🕯 Gothic elements



When you have read Stave 1, complete the following activities.

1. Complete a similar table, describing Ebenezer Scrooge and his nephew Fred, using words from the opening Stave.



Scrooge	Fred
Tight-fisted	Cheerful
Covetous old sinner	Glowing

2. Find evidence from the text that supports the following points relating to Jacob Marley, Marley's Ghost:
 - 🕯 The effect the chains have on Scrooge and the reader
 - 🕯 The words he uses to appeal to Scrooge
 - 🕯 The torment that Marley is experiencing.

When you have read Stave 2, complete the following questions.

Comprehension style questions:

1. Why is the Ghost of Christmas Present described as both a child and an old man?
2. How does Dickens use this Ghost to reflect Scrooge's childhood and his memories associated with this time in his life?
3. How is this Ghost dressed and does it symbolise anything?
4. Why is the Ghost also a source of light and what does light symbolise?
5. How does the Ghost communicate with Scrooge?
6. How do we learn about his childhood and his sister, Fan?

7. What are his first memories of his working life with old Mr Fezziwig?
8. How does Dickens make the reader start to empathise with Scrooge as a young man and start to understand why he has turned into the man he has become?
9. How does Scrooge feel by the end of this Stave at revisiting his memories?
10. What do we learn about his fiancée, Belle and what does Scrooge appear to value more than love?
11. Has Dickens created a contrast between warm and cold and between light and dark? Why does he do this?

When you have read Stave 3, answer the following questions.

1. How much food does Dickens use to introduce the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Present?
2. How does this elaborate food compare with the food that Scrooge usually eats?
3. Find **two** quotations that show the Spirit is concerned with people who are poor.
4. How does Dickens contrast Bob Cratchit's happiness in his family life with his poverty? Find at least **three** supporting quotations here.
5. How do we know that Scrooge is feeling guilty about Tiny Tim's condition?
6. Using the words **ignorance** and **want** create a list of synonyms:

Ignorance	Want
disregard	craving
incapacity	yearning

7. Make notes about the following themes reflected in this Stave:

- 🕒 Poverty (you may wish to look at this link here:
www.hiddenlives.org.uk/articles/poverty.html)
- 🕒 Contentment vs loneliness
- 🕒 Christmas and how it is celebrated
- 🕒 Social responsibility and welfare reform

When you have read Stave 4, answer the following questions.

1. What does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come look like? Make sure that you use references to the text.
2. Why does this Ghost look more sinister than all the other ghosts and what word does Dickens use to describe him?
3. Why do you think this ghost is surrounded in darkness?
4. Where does he take Scrooge and what does Scrooge learn about himself from this ghost?
5. How does Scrooge feel about his gravestone?
6. What effect does this spirit have on Scrooge by not talking?
7. How does Dickens shift the genre from a ghost story back into a Christmas story by the end of the Stave?
8. What has Scrooge learnt by the end of this stave?



When you have read Stave 5, answer the following questions.

1. The stave is titled, 'The End of It'. Do you feel this is an appropriate chapter title?
2. What makes this Stave different from the other staves in its overall mood and atmosphere?
3. Find **four** quotes that show the reader how happy Scrooge is even by the smallest of things around him?
4. Find and locate the series of **similes** that Scrooge uses to show how happy he is in this Stave.
5. How has Scrooge changed in this Stave to the first Scrooge described back in Stave 1? Make sure you refer to the text here to provide evidence for your explanations.
6. Scrooge seems re-born and even visits Church - why do you think Dickens make this Stave religious in its overtone?
7. What effect does the repetition of the word 'wonderful' have on the extract about Scrooge spending Christmas at Fred's house?
8. How does Scrooge play a trick on Bob at the end and how does the novella end?