

Character Overview

Ebenezer Scrooge	Selfish businessman who transforms into a charitable philanthropist	Prejudiced, ignorant, cold-hearted, miserly, cruel, isolated. Altruistic, penitent, redeemed, charitable, emblematic
Fred	Scrooge's nephew, contrast to Scrooge, represents Christmas in human form	Gentleman, optimistic, benevolent, generous, kind-hearted, persistent
Jacob Marley	Scrooge's dead business partner who returns to warn Scrooge to change his ways	Bitter, greedy, selfish, catalyst, terrifying
Ghost of Christmas Past	A contradiction, a combination of young and old, winter and summer, white haired and wrinkled	Young and old, ephemeral, contradiction
Ghost of Christmas Present	Personifies everything that is generous and giving about Christmas	Welcoming, prophetic, jolly
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	Most traditional spirit, resembles the Grim Reaper and accompanies Scrooge to the darkest part of the story.	Dark, ominous, foreboding, silent
Bob Cratchit	Scrooge's clerk, he has little money but a loving family	Hard-worker, vulnerable, moral, cheerful, grateful
Tiny Tim	The Cratchit's ill son who inspires Scrooge's transformation	Disabled, thoughtful, kind
Fezziwig	Scrooge's ex-employer, role model for employers	Caring, joyful, decisive, collaborative, hard-worker
Belle	Scrooge's ex-fiancee	Gentle, honest, poor, straightforward

Key Themes

Social Injustice
 Greed
 Transformation
 Redemption
 Consequences
 Responsibility
 Home & Family
 Poverty
 Christmas
 Ignorance and Want
 Death
 Reputation

Key Ideas

- ❖ Novella
- ❖ Ghost Story
- ❖ Bildungsroman
- ❖ Transformation
- ❖ Redemption
- ❖ Christian Values
- ❖ 1st Person Narrative
- ❖ 3rd Person Omniscient Narrator
- ❖ Stave
- ❖ Symbolism

Context

Dickens' Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The second of 8 children • 1824 - Father sent to prison for debt. • Charles sent to work in a shoe blacking factory, a terrible time for him. * He used his childhood experiences in his writing & his sympathy for children in poverty & their families is prevalent. * Dickens travelled extensively in Europe & America & spoke out against the Slave Trade – he was a champion of what we would call 'human rights' & his works have a strong moral undertone.
Victorian London	. The Victorian Era was a time of change in many ways, driven by the changing economy in which there was less of a reliance on agriculture & a move into the Industrial Revolution (when goods changed from being made by hand to being made by machines in factories). Britain became a superpower & the population, particularly in London, grew rapidly.
Malthus (a respected academic & economist)	Dickens shows his disgust with the Malthusian principle that population will always grow faster than food & should be controlled by diseases & starvation.
Class Inequality	Victorian Society was divided into classes; upper, middle, working class. The upper class were the ruling class & were afforded luxuries & everything you need to succeed in life, namely a good education & access to health care.
Childhood	The result of the expansion of manufacturing processes & the need for coal was child labor. Children as young as 6 worked 12-14 hours per day, many dying of disease or being killed or maimed in accidents.
The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act & The Work House	Introduced to reduce the cost of looking after the poor. After this, if people in poverty wanted help they had to go to the workhouse to get it. The poor were terrified about the prospect of the workhouse as the conditions were appalling. Dickens describes them in 'Oliver Twist'
Ragged Schools	Set up by well-meaning people for the poor in cities, offering free education. For many children this was the only education they received. The need for proper education was a priority for Dickens. After he visited one of these schools he wrote that the pupils were 'abandoned of all help; speeding downwards towards destruction'

Sentence Starters

- Point (AO1): Use the words from the question and include a method used by the writer.
- Evidence (AO1): For example/ This is seen when '...'
- Explanation of Language (AO2): This word/method '...' implies/suggests... It makes us realise/think/feel/imagine...
- Link (AO3): This could represent/symbolise the ... in society/it may represent Dickens view that...

Plot	
Stave 1 Marley's Ghost	Ebenezer Scrooge is at work in his counting house. Scrooge's turns down his nephew, Fred's, invitation to his Christmas party & 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 own 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.
Stave 2 The First of the Three Spirits	He wakes and the Ghost of Christmas Past soon appears to him - they embark on a journey into Scrooge's past. Invisible to those he watches, Scrooge revisits his childhood school days; his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant named Fezziwig, & his engagement to Belle, who leaves Scrooge as he loves money too much to love another human being. Scrooge sheds tears of regret before returning to his bed.
Stave 3 The Second of the Three Spirits	Scrooge anticipates the second ghost, sitting up in bed waiting. He is surprised when no spirit arrives. Instead, he follows a light & finds himself in a transformed version of his own room. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge Christmas as it happens that year. Scrooge sees the Cratchit family eat a tiny meal in their little home; Bob Cratchit's crippled son, Tiny Tim, whose kindness & humility warm Scrooge's heart and Fred's Christmas party. Toward the end of the day the ghost shows Scrooge two starved child-like figures; Ignorance & Want. He vanishes as Scrooge notices a dark, hooded figure coming.
Stave 4 The Last of the Spirits	The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge through a sequence of scenes linked to an unnamed man'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 & is shocked to read his own name. He is desperate to change his fate & promises to change his ways. He suddenly finds himself safely tucked in his bed.
Stave 5 The End of It	Scrooge rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He sends a turkey to the Cratchit house & goes to Fred's party. 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 & is kind, generous & warm.

Language

- Satire- use of humour or ridicule to criticise
- Asyndeton- list without conjunctions
- Polysyndeton- list with conjunctions (and)
- Simile- comparing using 'like' or 'as'
- Metaphor- saying one thing is another
- Personification- make object human
- Pathetic fallacy- weather to create mood
- Pathos- language to evoke pity
- Allusion- reference to another literary work
- Hyperbole- exaggerated statement
- Connotation- associated meaning of word
- Characterisation- built up description of character in text
- Semantic field- words related in meaning
- Imagery- visually descriptive language

Structure and Form

- Conflict- problem faced by characters
- Resolution- point where conflict is resolved
- Foreshadowing- clue about something later
- Foreboding- sense that something will occur
- Juxtaposition- two contrasted ideas
- Backstory- insight into character's past
- Exposition- revelation of something
- Poetic justice- good rewarded bad punished
- Melodrama- exaggerated characters/events
- Motif- repeated image or symbol
- Antithesis- contrast of ideas in same grammatical structure
- Authorial intrusion- where author pauses to speak directly to reader
- Allegory- characters/events represent ideas about religion, morals or politics

Character Quotes	
Ebenezer Scrooge	<p>"Hard and sharp as flint" "Solitary as an oyster" "Bah! Humbug"</p> <p>"He carried his own low temperature around with him"</p> <p>"Nobody stopped him in the street to say.. 'My dear Scrooge, how are you?' "</p> <p>"Every idiot who goes around with Merry Xmas on his lips... should be buried with a stake of holly through his heart"</p> <p>"Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" "If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population" "It's not my business"</p>
Fred	<p>"What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."</p> <p>"I have always thought of Christmas as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time" "Don't be angry Uncle. Merry Christmas!"</p> <p>"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." "Scrooge's offences carry their own punishment. Who suffers? Himself!"</p>
Jacob Marley	<p>"On the very day of the funeral, (Scrooge) solemnised it with an undoubted bargain"</p> <p>"I wear the chain I forged in life...The chain was made up of cash boxes..ledgers..heavy purses"</p> <p>"You may be an undigested bit of beef"</p> <p>"My spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money changing hole"</p> <p>"Mankind was my business!"</p>
Ghost of Christmas Past	<p>"Would you (Scrooge) so soon put out..the light I give?"</p> <p>"Scrooge was conscious of a thousand odours floating in the air, each one connected with a thousand thoughts and hopes and joys long long forgotten."</p> <p>"Strange to have forgotten it for so many years"</p> <p>"A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still – Scrooge sobbed."</p> <p>"To see Scrooge's extraordinary voice between laughing and crying..and his excited face..would have been a surprise to his business friends in the city"</p> <p>"I should like to have given him (the boy carol singer) something: that's all." "One child: true! your nephew!" (With Fezziwig) "Scrooge's heart and soul were in the scene..he remembered everything, enjoyed everything."</p> <p>"A small matter to make these folks so full of gratitude" "I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now. That's all."</p>
Ghost of Christmas Present	<p>"A jolly giant who bore a glowing torch with a cheery voice and a joyful air"</p> <p>"To a poor one most. Because it needs it most" "I see a vacant seat. The child will die"</p> <p>"Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be in the sight of heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child"</p> <p>"Scrooge was the ogre of the family and the mention of his name cast a dark shadow"</p> <p>"The numbers of people on the way to friendly gatherings"</p> <p>"Even here.. two men wished each other Merry Christmas in their can of grog."</p> <p>"Yes/No game.. a disagreeable, savage animal. It's Uncle Scro-o-o-o-ge!"</p> <p>"They are Man's. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware for I see that written which is Doom"</p>
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	<p>"It was shrouded in a deep black garment which concealed its head, its face, its form and left nothing visible except one outstretched hand"</p> <p>"Ghost of the Future. I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, I am prepared to bear you company with a thankful heart."</p> <p>"I don't mind going (to the funeral) if a lunch is provided."</p> <p>"Old Scratch has got his own at last hey?" "So I am told.. Cold isn't it?"</p> <p>"He frightened everyone away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead, ha, ha!"</p> <p>"If there is any person in the town who feels emotion caused by this man's death, show that person to me, Spirit, I beseech you!"</p> <p>"It would be bad fortune to find so merciless a creditor. We may sleep tonight with light hearts, Caroline!"</p> <p>"I am sure none we shall none of us forget Tiny Tim" "A churchyard, overrun by weeds, the growth of vegetation's death not life –a worthy place!"</p> <p>"Scrooge crept towards it, trembling, and following the finger, read upon the stone of the neglected grave his own name, Ebenezer Scrooge."</p>
The Cratchits	<p>"The clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like only one coal"</p> <p>"There's another fellow, my clerk with fifteen shillings a week, and a wife and family, talking about a merry Christmas. I'll retire to Bedlam"</p> <p>"Tiny Tim hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and remember upon Christmas day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."</p> <p>"Mrs Cratchit made the gravy hissing hot, Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour, Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple sauce..." "There never was such a goose cooked." "Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes"</p> <p>"God bless us every one" "Mr Scrooge. I'd give him a piece of my mind. An odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man" (Mrs Cratchit)</p>
Fezziwig	<p>"Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!"</p> <p>"Yo ho there! Ebenezer! Dick! No more work tonight!"</p> <p>"He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome. The happiness he gives, is..as if it cost a fortune"</p>
Belle	<p>"Another idol has displaced me.. a golden one"</p> <p>"I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off, until the master passion, Gain engrosses you"</p> <p>"May you be happy in the life you have chosen"</p> <p>"No more! Show me no more!" "Now a comely matron sitting opposite her daughter"</p>

A Christmas Carol Knowledge Organiser