



CHARLES DICKENS'

# A Christmas Carol

**ENGLISH  
LITERATURE  
GCSE QUOTE  
BANK**

# STAVE 1: MEETING SCROOGE

## SUMMARY:

- ❖ When we first meet Scrooge he is described as a miserable, bitter old miser, Scrooge hates irrational things like happiness, generosity and Christmas.
- ❖ Scrooge lives alone, eating almost nothing and trying to speak to as few people as possible.

"But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!" Page 2

"Scrooge was his sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend and sole mourner" Page 1

"Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley" Page 1



"foul weather didn't know where to have him" (about Scrooge)

"Foggier yet, and colder! Piercing, searching, biting cold" (describing the atmosphere) Page 7

"If they would rather die," said Scrooge, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population" (said to the charity collectors) Page 6

"Self-contained, and solitary as an oyster" (about Scrooge)

## Descriptions of Scrooge

"Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster" Page 2

"A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin." Page 2

"The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice." Page 2

"Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal." Page 2

"He carried his own low temperature always about with him." Page 2

"Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ... Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts;" Page 2

# STAVE 1: MARLEY'S GHOST

## SUMMARY:

- ❖ The reader meets Ebenezer Scrooge who only cares about money
- ❖ It is Christmas Eve and he won't pay to heat his office properly, this means his clerk (assistant) Bob Cratchit is very cold
- ❖ Scrooge has four visitors: Fred, two charity collectors and a carol singer. He is rude to them all
- ❖ That night, the Ghost of Jacob Marley (his dead business partner) appears. He warns Scrooge to change his way of life and that three spirits will visit him soon.

"Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that" Page 1

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## A visit from Marley's Ghost

"had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar" (describing Marley's face in the door knocker) Page 9

"Scrooge was not a man to be frightened by echoes" (the sounds he hear in the house after closing the door) Page 9

"Quite satisfied, he closed his door, and locked himself in; double locked himself in, which was not his custom" (after Scrooge has checked rooms of the house and reaches his room) Page 10

"It is doomed to wander through the world – oh, woe is me! – and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness" (what happens when spirits don't move on) Page 13

"the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this...you have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain" Page 13

# STAVE 2: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

## SUMMARY:

- ❖ The ghost shows Scrooge his unhappy childhood
- ❖ They visit the house of Fezziwig (Scrooge's first employer). Fezziwig holds a Christmas party. Scrooge sees how much happiness can be had without lots of money
- ❖ We also learn that Scrooge's little sister, Fan, died at a young age. She is the mother of Fred, Scrooge's nephew.
- ❖ Scrooge then sees himself as a young man with Belle (his fiancé). Belle breaks off the engagement because Scrooge loves money more than her

"It was a strange figure- like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man" Page 18 (description of the ghost)

"To his great astonishment the heavy bell went from six to seven, and from seven to eight.." Page 16 (before the ghost arrives)

"It held a branch of fresh holly in its hand; and in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers" Page 18 (description of the ghost)

"The grasp, though gentle as a woman's hand, was not to be resisted" Page 19 (when Scrooge walks with the ghost)

"from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light" (description of the ghost)

"His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self" (after Scrooge had seen himself at Fezziwig's party) Page 26

"The happiness he gives, as quite as great as if it cost a fortune" Page 26 (Scrooge describing the party to the ghost)

"There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!" Page 27 (past Scrooge said this to Belle during their break up)



"Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright; dimly connecting that with its influence over him, he seized the extinguisher cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head" Page 30 (Scrooge has had enough of the past)

# STAVE 3: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

## SUMMARY:

- ❖ The ghost takes Scrooge to see the Christmas preparations at the Cratchit house
- ❖ Scrooge learns that Tiny Tim will not survive unless the future changes. This upsets Scrooge.
- ❖ The ghost then takes Scrooge to see Fred and his family. They are discussing Scrooge and Fred shows nothing but pity for him.
- ❖ At the end of the night, the ghost shows Scrooge 'Want' and 'Ignorance' (a young boy and girl). The ghost says they belong to mankind and warns Scrooge to beware both of them, especially ignorance.



“ Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by and iron frame” Page 37 (description of Tiny Tim)

“Bob’s voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty” Page 38 (Bob’s emotions upon describing Tiny Tim to his wife)

“From the folding of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment” Page 49 (description of Want and Ignorance)

“For he wished to challenge the Spirit on the moment of its appearance, and did not wish to be taken by surprise and made nervous” Page 31 (Scrooge prepares for the ghost)

“ his thread-bare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable; and Tiny Tim upon his shoulder” Page 37 (Bob enters his house)

“ If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die” Page 40 (when Scrooge asks the spirit about Tiny Tim’s future)

“ What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population” Page 40 (the spirit quotes Scrooge from Stave 1, referring to the poor)

“ His wealth is of no use to him. He don’t do any good with it. He don’t make himself comfortable with it” Page 45 (Fred talks about Scrooge to his wife)

“ They are Man’s...The boy is Ignorance. The girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom” Page 49 (the spirit warns Scrooge about Ignorance)



# STAVE 4: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME

## SUMMARY:

- ❖ The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears. It does not speak, but points the way, showing Scrooge scenes from the future.
- ❖ People in the City discuss a colleague who has died; they don't care about his death.
- ❖ Thieves meet to sell items they have stolen from the dead man.
- ❖ The Ghost tries to make Scrooge look at the face of the dead man but Scrooge says he can't.
- ❖ The Ghost takes Scrooge to see the Cratchits because Tiny Tim has died.
- ❖ Scrooge is shown his own gravestone. He realises he is the dead man. He promises to change his ways.



**"The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached...the very air through which the Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery" Page 50 (the arrival of the Spirit)**

**"the Spirit neither spoke nor moved" Page 50**

**"Although well used to ghostly company by this time, Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled" Page 50**

**"Unseen Eyes were looking at him keenly. It made him shudder, and feel very cold" Page 53 (description of the Spirit)**

**"The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly". Page 53 (a description of the poorer side of town – creates a sense of despair)**

**"Tiny Tim, thy childish essence was from God" Page 61 (Dickens' comment about the innocence of Tiny Tim – he represents all poor children)**

**"Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!" Page 62 (Scrooge asks the Spirit if he can change the future)**

**"It's likely to be a very cheap funeral," said the same speaker; "for upon my life I don't know of anybody to go to it" Page 52 (Businessmen speak about the unknown man's death)**

**"...on it, plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for, was the body of this man" Page 56 (the Spirit tries to get Scrooge to look upon the face of the dead man)**

**"for he is the pleasantest-spoken gentleman you ever heard" Page 60 (Bob Cratchit speaks about the kindness of Fred after he has heard about Tiny Tim's death)**

**"It was a worthy place. Walled in by houses; overrun by grass and weeds, the growth of vegetation's death, not life; choked up with too much burying" Page 62 (a description of the place where Scrooge is buried)**

# STAVE 5: THE END OF IT

## • SUMMARY:

- Scrooge awakes to his own bed post. He is back in his bed. And his bed curtains are still there. And he has time to fix his life.
- Scrooge gets dressed and runs to the window, laughing for the first time in many years. He hears church bells, and a boy passing by tells him it's Christmas Day.
- Scrooge asks a young boy to fetch the poulterer's prize turkey for the Cratchit family
- On his way to church, he donates to the charity workers including back-payments.
- He attends Fred's Christmas party
- The next morning, he plays a prank on Bob Cratchit before giving him a raise to his salary
- And finally, we learn what the real future turns out to be. Scrooge helps out the Cratchit family, takes care of Tiny Tim (who then ends up surviving), and generally becomes a wonderful guy all around.
- Everyone for ever after says that he is really good at keeping up the spirit of Christmas.



He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure.

He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

"It's I. Your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?"

No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious. Glorious!

"What an intelligent boy!"... "A remarkable boy"... "A delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to him" (Scrooge about the young boy he asks to fetch the prize turkey.

Best and happiest of all, the Time before him was his own, to make amends in!

I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby. Hallo! Whoop! Hallo here!

the churches ringing out the lustiest peals he had ever heard. Clash, clang, hammer; ding, dong, bell. Bell, dong, ding; hammer, clang, clash! Oh, glorious, glorious!

to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father

I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man.