

Y11

Revision

'A Christmas Carol'

Form Booklet



Sheffield Springs Academy
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Part of United Learning

'A Christmas Carol' (10.02 and 11.03)



Text: 'A Christmas Carol'

Form: Novella

Era: Victorian (1843)

Writer: Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens

- 1812-1870.
- Father imprisoned in a debtor's prison.
- Works often focus on the issues of social class and poverty.

Key Characters

Ebenezer Scrooge: the avaricious protagonist who must undergo a journey towards redemption.
Bob Cratchit: the impoverished employee of Ebenezer Scrooge.
Tiny Tim: Bob Cratchit's disabled son.
Jacob Marley: the former business partner of Scrooge who returns to haunt him as a ghost.
Fred: Scrooge's nephew.
Little Fan: Scrooge's sister (and mother of Fred). Now deceased.
The Three Spirits: Spirits which show Scrooge visions of the past, present and future.
Ignorance and Want: two ghostly children shown to Scrooge by the Ghost of Christmas Present who represent the issue of poverty.
Fezziwig: Scrooge's former employer.
The Portly Gentlemen: two charity workers who are rejected by Scrooge.
Belle: Scrooge's former fiancée.

Powerful Vocabulary/ Terminology	Definition
Social class	A division of a society based on social and economic status.
Poverty	The state of being extremely poor.
Self-help	The principle/idea that individuals should be responsible for their own needs and wants.
Patron	A person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, or cause.
Redemption	The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
Consequence	A result or effect, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.
Ignorance	A lack of knowledge or understanding.
Novella	A narrative prose fiction whose length is shorter than most novels, but longer than most novelettes and short stories.
Stave	A verse or stanza of a poem or song.
Allegory	A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.



'A Christmas Carol' (10.02 and 11.03)



Stave 1: Scrooge is shown to be a character in need of redemption. He is haunted by the Ghost of Jacob Marley.

Stave 3: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present. He is shown visions of the Cratchit family dinner, Christmas at Fred's and Ignorance and Want.

Stave 5: Scrooge wakes up on Christmas Day and commits to change. He becomes a patron to the Cratchit family and achieves his redemption.



Stave 2: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past. He is shown visions of his former schoolhouse, Fezziwig's party and Belle.

Stave 4: Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. He is shown visions relating to the death of an unnamed man, Tiny Tim's mourning family and his own neglected grave.



'A Christmas Carol' (10.02 and 11.03)



The novella was written by acclaimed novelist, Charles Dickens, in 1843.



The novella was written in the aftermath of a change to the government's approach to providing for those in need. The Poor Law Amendment Act was passed in 1834.



After the passage of the New Poor Law, support was denied to those in poverty who were able-bodied unless they agreed to enter the workhouse.



Dickens gained a personal insight into the issue of poverty during his own childhood when his father was imprisoned in a debtor's jail.

Key Themes and Ideas (A01)	Key Characters/Symbols (A02)
Dickens uses the character of Ebenezer Scrooge in order to communicate a criticism of the existing social policy based on self-help.	Character of Scrooge
Dickens uses the novella to communicate his vision for an approach to resolving the issue of poverty focussed on a system of patronage in which the poor are supported by the rich.	Character of Bob Cratchit/the Cratchit family.
Dickens communicates a criticism of the spiritual consequences which await those who refuse to take responsibility for the welfare of others in society.	Character of Marley. Symbol of Marley's Chain.
Dickens communicates a clear sense of the importance of family.	Character of Fred/Belle/Little Fan. Character of Bob Cratchit/the Cratchit family.
Dickens communicates the idea that the rich/wealthy must be compelled to change by a higher power as they are reluctant to change voluntarily.	Character of Marley/the 3 spirits.



Explore how Priestley presents the character of Scrooge to communicate ideas about social class.

[30 marks]

Rapid recap:

1. To which social class does Scrooge belong?

2. Identify 1 key moment from Stave 1 which characterise Scrooge's greed and his belief in self-help.

3. Which working class character is exploited and mistreated by Scrooge?

4. Which character is contrasted with Scrooge as a representation of the charitable middle class?

5. Which character displays to Scrooge the consequences of failing to change and be redeemed?

Think deeper:

What system does Dickens advocate for throughout the novella? What is your personal response/view on this system?

Explore how Priestley presents the character of Scrooge to communicate ideas about social class.

[30 marks]

PLAN

Intro:

WHAT (central idea)

WHY (central message)

MAIN: Track your central idea through moments and methods.

1.

2.

3.

TEACHER MODEL

Intro:

WHAT (central idea)

WHY (central message)

MAIN: Track your central idea through moments and methods.

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2.

3.

Explore how Dickens presents the theme of consequence throughout the novella

[30 marks]

Rapid recap:

1. Which character is the clearest representation of the consequences of failing to change?

2. What object(s) in the novella can be seen as a symbol of consequence?

3. What does Belle say has 'displaced her' when we see the personal consequences of Scrooge's greed?

4. Which character (in addition to Scrooge) is shown to die in the visions shown by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

5. How is Scrooge's grave presented in Stave 4 when Scrooge is shown the visions of the future by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

Think deeper:

What consequences do you think are most impactful in motivating Scrooge to change and be redeemed? What might be the intention behind this?

**Explore how Dickens presents the theme of
consequence throughout the novella**

[30 marks]

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Explore how Dickens presents the character of Bob Cratchit to explore the issue of poverty.

[30 marks]

Rapid recap:

1. What does Bob Cratchit represent?

2. How does the portrayal of Bob Cratchit challenge stereotypical ideas about poverty?

3. In which moments of the novella does Dickens humanise the Cratchit family to directly challenge Scrooge's (and the reader's) ignorance towards poverty?

4. How does Dickens characterise Tiny Tim to create a sense of the powerlessness of the working class?

5. When descri

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[30 marks]

The Cratchits: Evidence Bank

1. “the clerk’s fire was so much smaller that it looked like one _____”
(the description of Bob Cratchit’s working conditions– Stave 1)

2. “I’ll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the _____!”
(Bob Cratchit speaking about Scrooge– Stave 3)

3. “as good as _____’ said Bob, ‘and better”
(Bob Cratchit speaking about Tiny Tim– Stave 3)

4. “I’ll raise your _____ and endeavour to _____ your struggling family”
(Scrooge speaking to Bob Cratchit– Stave 5)

5. “he became a second _____”
(about Scrooge and his role in supporting the Cratchit family– Stave 5)

Explore how Dickens presents the theme of consequence throughout the novella

[30 marks]

Theme of Consequence : Evidence Bank

1. "I wear the _____ I _____ in life!"
(Marley speaking to Scrooge– Stave 1)
2. "heavy purses wrought in _____"
(the description of Marley's chain– Stave 1)
3. "another _____ has displaced me... a _____ one"
(Belle speaking to Scrooge– Stave 2)
4. "on his brow I see that written which is _____"
(The Ghost of Christmas Present speaking to Scrooge about Ignorance and Want– Stave 3)
5. "his own _____ grave"
(the description of Scrooge's gravestone in Stave 4)