**Term 6 Week 6 Lesson 1 Year 9: Symbols in “A Christmas Carol”**

**Do now:**

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| Topic | Question  | Answer |
| Q1 ‘A Christmas Carol’ | **Who is Scrooge’s foil?** |  |
| Q2 ‘A Christmas Carol’ | Finish the quotation – a comment by Ebenezer Scrooge about the poor: “If they had rather die, they had better do it and \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_” |  |
| Q3 ‘An Inspector Calls’ | In which era is ‘An Inspector Calls’ set? |  |
| Q4 ‘An Inspector Calls’ | What is the name of the maid? |  |
| Q5 Subject Terminology | What is the definition of an oxymoron? |  |

**Symbols in ‘A Christmas Carol’**

Because of the story’s allegorical nature, many characters and events are symbolic:

Marley’s Chains: The chains that Scrooge’s deceased partner wear are important because of their material. Whereas normal chains are forged from metal, Marley’s are constructed from what he valued in life—versions of material wealth. Dickens uses this image to suggest that actions in life may have inescapable consequences even in death.

The Ghost of Christmas Past: The first ghost to visit Scrooge symbolizes the experiences and memories that have made him into the callous person he is today. The spirit’s glowing head suggests the location of the memories Scrooge holds.

The Ghost of Christmas Present: The second apparition brings with him visions of feasts and a transformed room in Scrooge’s house, which contrasts Scrooge’s cold home with the abundance of other families. Though the others do not have material wealth, they are rich in happiness and familial warmth. The ghost also carries a scabbard but no sword, symbolizing lasting peace.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: The final spirit, silent and clothed in black, symbolizes the uncertainty and fear of the future. The presence is mysterious and without identifiable features, showing that the future is not yet set.

Scrooge’s Gravestone: Shown to him by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, the gravestone symbolizes Scrooge’s potential fate if he does not change: a lonely death, inconsequential to those who know him.

Ignorance and Want: These two children, who cling to The Ghost of Christmas Present, represent the rich and the poor’s struggles. While the poor are weighed down by Want, it is clear that Ignorance is the more dangerous of the two—and that Ignorance is Scrooge’s vice, since he has not bothered to learn more about his employees’ conditions.

Turkey: A changed man, Scrooge purchases a large turkey to provide for the Cratchits. Scrooge’s purchase symbolizes his transformation from stingy to generous, illustrating his renewed commitment to Christmas’s values.

**In the grid, please fill in the theme linked to each of the symbols and provide a quotation which links to it. The first one is done for you.**

|  |  |  |
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| Symbol/motif | Theme | Evidence |
| 1. Marley’s chains | social responsibility / redemption | “I wear the chain I forged in life” |
| 2. Ignorance and Want |  |  |
| 3. Light that shines from the Ghost of Christmas Past |  |  |
| 4. Ghost of Christmas Spirit’s rusty scabbard |  |  |
| 5. Shroud worn by Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come |  |  |

**Analytical paragraph: How does Dickens use symbols and motifs to create effects and emphasise key themes?**

Dickens uses symbols such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to emphasise the themes of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . For example, “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. In other words, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . More specifically, this symbolises \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Dickens wants to readers to think that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .