**Year 10 Week 3 Lesson 2: ‘A Christmas Carol’ part a**

**Do now:**

1. **What type of text is ‘A Christmas Carol’?**
2. **What type of narrator do we have in ‘A Christmas Carol’?**
3. **Which three things are you assessed on in ‘A Christmas Carol’ part a?**

In this extract from Stave 4, Scrooge is being shown the vision of the future where the Cratchit family have lost Tiny Tim. Dickens wanted his readers to admire them and their attitude to life. This scene provides a stark contrast to the previous scene at the Cratchit house. Tiny Tim’s death is foreshadowed by the Ghost, for if things do not change he will die.

Poor here demonstrates the emotional hardship the family are going through. Bob’s emotions juxtapose his emotions from the previous scene at the Cratchits.

The adjective ‘little’ demonstrates Tiny Tim’s innocence and vulnerability. This is emotive language

Bob’s promise to his son demonstrates that he is a pure man with a good heart. Honest and hardworking.

The exclamative sentence shows strong emotion

She hurried out to meet him; and little Bob in his comforter—he had need of it, poor fellow—came in. His tea was ready for him on the hob, and they all tried who should help him to it most. Then the two young Cratchits got upon his knees and laid, each child a little cheek, against his face, as if they said, “Don’t mind it, father. Don’t be grieved!”

Bob was very cheerful with them, and spoke pleasantly to all the family. He looked at the work upon the table, and praised the industry and speed of Mrs. Cratchit and the girls. They would be done long before Sunday, he said.

“Sunday! You went to-day, then, Robert?” said his wife.

“Yes, my dear,” returned Bob. “I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you’ll see it often. I promised him that I would walk there on a Sunday. My little, little child!” cried Bob. “My little child!”

He broke down all at once. He couldn’t help it. If he could have helped it, he and his child would have been farther apart perhaps than they were.

1. Why is the adjective ‘little’ repeated when describing Tiny Tim?
2. Why does Dickens use the same setting twice in one stave?
3. Why do you think this scene is important?
4. How could Tiny Tim be seen as a sacrificial lamb?
5. What has Tiny Tim’s death taken from the Cratchit family?

**Exam question:**

**How does Dickens present the character of Bob Cratchit in this extract? [20 marks]**

**Model paragraph:**

**In this extract from the falling action of the allegorical novella “A Christmas Carol” Dickens presents Bob Cratchit as an incredibly loving but devastated father who is grieving the loss of his son, Tiny Tim. The omniscient narrator refers to Bob as a “poor fellow”. In other words, the emotional hardship that he is going through following the death of his son has a physical effect on Bob’s appearance. More specifically, the adjective “poor” creates sympathy for Bob and his family as it not only refers to his monetary status but also to his emotional status. It could suggest that Bob looks physically weakened by his grief. We feel sorry for Bob because he has lost the very thing that he considered to be very precious to himself – his son.**

**Your turn. Aim to write 2 more paragraphs answering the above question. Remember you must refer to Dickens’ use of language, form and structure.**