

## 'A Christmas Carol' Knowledge Organiser

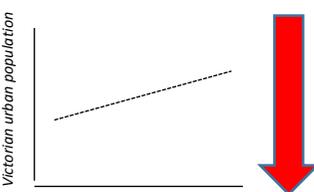
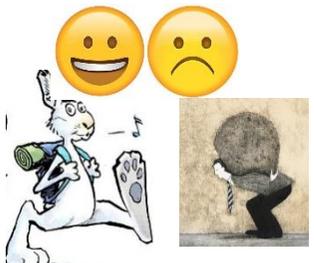
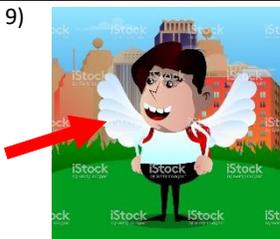
### PLOT SUMMARY

S T A V E 1	1. We are introduced to our protagonist Scrooge on Christmas Eve and learn that he is an isolated, lonely man who treats his employee Bob Cratchit unfairly, keeping a cruel monopoly of coal and keeping his clerk Bob Cratchit in the cold.
	2. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, visits Scrooge and invites him to Christmas dinner but Scrooge is uninviting and replies with "Bah, humbug!" He also turns away two charity collectors who are collecting for the poor and destitute.
	3. When he returns home, the door knocker with the face of his ex-business partner Jacob Marley spooks Scrooge. He is then visited by the ghost of Marley, who warns him to change his ways otherwise he'll end up wandering the earth trying to undo all of his wrongdoings just like him.
S T A V E 2	4. Scrooge wakes from a deep sleep and is met by the Ghost of Christmas Past who is a brightly glowing candle like apparition. The Ghost flies Scrooge over his past self as a lonely schoolboy who is invited home by his sister Fan. The Ghost then takes Scrooge back to his apprentice days where his boss Fezziwig led joy filled celebrations. Lastly, the Ghost takes Scrooge to moment his fiancée Belle called off their engagement due to his obsession with money, which upsets Scrooge and extinguishes the Ghost.
S T A V E 3	5. When Scrooge wakes from his next deep sleep, he finds the Ghost of Christmas Present, a large, joyful, man resembling stereotypical images of Father Christmas sitting atop a mountain of festive food.
	6. The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge around the city to see a range of different people enjoying the festivities together. They take a stop at Bob Cratchit's house where the hard working family are embracing the Christmas spirit despite their poverty. Scrooge is moved by Tiny Tim's bravery being a cripple.
	7. The last stop is Scrooge's nephew's house, where Scrooge enjoys the festive games and merriment although the party make fun of Scrooge's misery.
	8. Before the Spirit's time is up, two impoverished children are revealed from under his cloak; the children are Ignorance and Want and Scrooge is warned to beware of Ignorance the most.
S T A V E 4	9. The final ghost appears in a hooded black cloak and eerily does not talk to Scrooge but points the direction he is to head. The first stop is the business district where Scrooge overhears a rather heartless conversation between two businessmen about the funeral of a miserly man.
	10. The Ghost and Scrooge visit Joe and the thieves who are trading in the dead man's possessions. They then go to the room where the corpse lies on its own and Scrooge begs to see some tender emotions for the dead man.
	11. Scrooge sees a family who are relieved over the man's death as it relieves them of the pressures of the debt they owed. This visit is followed by the Cratchit house, where the family are mourning the death of Tiny Tim.
S T A V E 5	12. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come then takes Scrooge to a graveyard and points to a graveyard which Scrooge discovers has his name engraved. He is beside himself with sadness and promises to keep the Christmas spirit from now on.
	13. Scrooge wakes up and is overjoyed that he is alive. His transformation into a joyous man is described. He then sends a prize turkey to the Cratchits to celebrate Christmas before going to his nephews to celebrate, wishing everybody he passes a merry Christmas.
	14. The next day, Scrooge gives Bob a rise and Tiny Tim thrives, with Scrooge becoming a second father to him.

### KEY THEMES

A) Christmas
The title of the novella itself and the fact that it is structured into five staves rather than chapters links to traditional Christmas carols that are sung at Christmas time to celebrate the Christian celebration and the idea of giving and joy. Fred, Scrooge's nephew and foil, is able to embrace the Christmas spirit wholeheartedly with his friends as they enjoy childish pleasures, something Scrooge is able to join in with after his transformation. The importance of family and love is highlighted opposed to materialism, highlighted most in the Cratchit family. Their love for Tiny Tim outweighs any disgruntlement over money or wealth.
B) Redemption
This means being saved from sin or evil. Scrooge is transformed from a miserly misanthropist to a joyful philanthropist who is kinder to others. At the exposition of the novella, Scrooge rejects any compassion and celebration linked to the festive season but is ashamed when the Ghost of Christmas Present uses his own words against him to reflect his unacceptable behaviour. He transforms into a generous and happy character who is full of life and is welcomed into the lives of others.
C) Social injustice
Dickens felt very strongly that Victorian society ignored the impoverished underclass. At the exposition of the novella, Scrooge's refusal to help others through charity reflects the selfishness of the richer parts of Victorian society and the injustice of wealth distribution. The use of the children Ignorance and Want represents the consequences of this society, which destroyed the childhoods of many. At the falling action, Scrooge witnesses the consequences of only thinking of yourself as Joe and the Thieves show a complete lack of compassion for his corpse.

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Picture	Quotation	Explanation	Picture	Quotation	Explanation
	<p>"If they had rather die...they had better do it and <b>decrease the surplus population.</b>" (Scrooge, Stave 1)</p>	<p>Scrooge's obsession with business and profit means he does not value poor members of the population who do not profit society. He uses transactional language to show he does not value life over profit.</p>	<p>6) </p>	<p>"Are there no workhouses? Are there no prisons?" (Ghost of Christmas Present, Stave 3)</p>	<p>The Ghost of Christmas Present recites Scrooge's own words (used to the charity collectors in stave 1) back to him to make him feel guilty for his previous ignorance, greed and lack of compassion.</p>
<p>2) </p>	<p>"Mankind was my <b>business.</b>" (Marley, Stave 1)</p>	<p>Marley warns Scrooge to change his ways as he reflects that his priorities were wrong during his lifetime. The use of past tense highlights his regret as Marley tries to make Scrooge realise that others are more important than money.</p>	<p>7) </p>	<p>"The Phantom <b>slowly, gravely, silently</b> approached." (Narrator, Stave 4)</p>	<p>The group of three adverbs make the ghost sound menacing and his lack of speech forces Scrooge to draw conclusions from his reflections himself. Dickens refers to this Ghost as a "Phantom" as it has negative connotations and also refers to something that doesn't actually exist, intimating that it is Scrooge's own conscience that causes his redemption.</p>
<p>3) </p>	<p>"He has the <b>power</b> to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. ... The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune." (Scrooge about Fezziwig, Stave 2)</p>	<p>As Scrooge warmly watches his old boss when he was an apprentice, he reflects on the power a boss has over his employees and encourages him to reflect on his own treatment of Bob Cratchit. Scrooge's transformation begins as he starts to appreciate that kindness has a greater value than money.</p>	<p>8) </p>	<p>"He <b>frightened everyone away</b> from him when he was alive, to <b>profit us when he was dead!</b>" (Charwoman to Old Joe about Scrooge, Stave 4)</p>	<p>Joe and the thieves are able to "profit" from Scrooge's possessions when he died because nobody was there to claim them due to him pushing them away and showing no compassion for others when he was alive. The lack of compassion shown for the corpse forces Scrooge to feel sad for his own loss but also acknowledge that it is a result of his own actions, which need to change.</p>
<p>4) </p>	<p>"Another <b>idol</b> has displaced me. A <b>golden one.</b>" (Belle, Stave 2)</p>	<p>The Ghost of Christmas Past makes Scrooge watch the moment Scrooge's engagement to Belle is called off as she recognises that Scrooge's greed for money has overtaken his love for her. Scrooge's reaction shows his regret and humanises him.</p>	<p>9) </p>	<p>"I am as <b>light as a feather</b>, I am as <b>happy as an angel</b>, I am as <b>merry as a school boy.</b>" (Scrooge, Stave 5)</p>	<p>This group of three similes juxtaposes those used at the exposition of the novella when Scrooge is described "as solitary as an oyster" and "as hard and sharp as flint." These similes imply Scrooge is no longer burdened and is filled with joy and goodness.</p>
<p>5) </p>	<p>"The boy is <b>Ignorance</b>. The girl is <b>Want</b>...Most of all <b>beware</b> this boy." (Ghost of Christmas Present, Stave 3)</p>	<p>Dickens uses two malnourished and impoverished children to symbolise ignorance (unawareness) and want (need for more) as they emanate greater sympathy from readers. Essentially, the Ghost of Christmas Present is highlighting a need to be aware of the consequences of our actions on others.</p>	<p>10) </p>	<p>"Scrooge regarded everyone with a <b>delighted smile.</b>" (Narrator, Stave 5)</p>	<p>Again juxtaposing the protagonist from the exposition, Scrooge no longer frightens passers by into the shadows but greets them warmly. Like his old boss Fezziwig, Scrooge is now cordial to others and resembles a joyful character on Christmas day.</p>



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