



Main Characters

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Ebenezer Scrooge 	Elderly miser forced to see the errors of his selfish & greedy ways.	Cantankerous, bitter, contrite, curmudgeonly antisocial, remorseful
Fred 	Scrooge's nephew, son to Scrooge's beloved sister Fan. Tries to reconcile himself with Scrooge.	Open-hearted, hopeful, optimistic, affable, considerate, thoughtful
Bob Cratchit 	Scrooge's impoverished and underpaid clerk. A loyal family man .	Impoverished, oppressed, timid, bullied
Tiny Tim 	Bob Cratchit's sickly son, victim of poverty and illness. He highlights the importance of generosity, compassion & is a catalyst for Scrooge's redemption	Humble, genial , frail chronically ill, innocent
Jacob Marley 	Scrooge's old partner, seven years dead at the start of the novella. Appears to warn Scrooge to change his ways.	Cautionary, condemned Admonishing,
Ghost of Christmas past 	The ghost of Christmas Past forces Scrooge to see the errors of his past choices, and shows the reader the losses of Scrooge's earlier life. This spirit has a light protruding from the top of its head.	Ethereal ,melancholic illuminating ,challenging
Ghost of Christmas Present 	The ghost of Christmas Present forces Scrooge to see the positives of Christmas & also miseries of poverty & social want. Resembles a traditional Father Christmas.	Benevolent, affable kind , jovial
Ghost of Christmas yet to come 	Forces Scrooge to acknowledge how his wasted life will end. Wears a black hooded cloak & represents death .	Sinister ,intimidating menacing, voiceless
Fezziwig Belle 	Scrooge's first boss, an excellent role model of how a boss can be. Scrooge's former finance who breaks off their engagement due to obsession with money.	Benevolent, joyful, exuberant Lost happiness, love,

Ignorance & Want Scrooge's gravestone

Symbolism

Ghosts- Past, Present & Future Marley's Chains

Plot Overview

Stave 1-Scrooge sits in his counting house on a bitterly cold & foggy Christmas eve. Bob Cratchit his clerk shivers as Scrooge refuses to spend money on coals for the fire. Fred visits his uncle to spread some festive cheer & invite him to his annual Christmas party. Two Charity workers also visit asking for donations, Scrooge reacts with bitterness and venom, spitting out an angry "Bah Humbug".

Later that evening Scrooge receives a visits from the Ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley. He tells Scrooge that as a punishment for his greed & mean ways he has been condemned to wander the earth with chains around him. Marley hopes to Save Scrooge from the same fate & tells him that three spirits will visit him over the next three nights.

Stave 2- The Ghost of Christmas past takes Scrooge back to when he was alone at boarding school, showing him when his sister Fan collected him and a party his old boss Fezziwig held. Scrooge is also shown the moment that Belle breaks off their engagement & sees how her life is now, with her family.

Stave 3- The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge a Christmas morning in London as the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas. He discovers that Bob Cratchit has a 'crippled' son- Tiny Tim, a courageous boy whose kindness & humility warms Scrooges heart. He is told that Tim will likely die as he's cannot receive the care he needs. As the day passes the spirit shows him two starved children living under his coat -'Ignorance & Want'.

Stave 4- The Ghost of Christmas yet to come shows Scrooge a group of business men discussing the death of a man, without much sympathy. He is taken to a pawnbrokers where people are selling the dead mans possessions. A poor couple discuss how they were in debt to this man. Scrooge is taken to a Graveyard & sees his head stone, realising he is the dead man. The Cratchits are grieving the loss of Tiny Tim.

Stave 5- Scrooge is redeemed! & shows gratitude - he sends the largest turkey to the Cratchit family, makes a huge charity donation, attends Fred's party and also gives Bob a pay rise. Scrooge becomes a second father to Tiny Tim who does not die. Scrooge promises to 'honour Christmas with all his heart' for the foreseeable future.

Key

Vocabulary

- Dickensian
- Allegory
- Stave
- Novella
- Redemption
- Miserly
- Ignorance
- Poverty
- Injustice
- Victorian
- Humility
- Misanthropic

Themes

Greed 	Regret & Redemption 	Family
Poverty & social injustice 	Forgiveness 	Responsibility & Community