

STUDY GUIDE

A Christmas Carol

CHARLES DICKENS



SADDLEBACK EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING, INC.



STUDY GUIDE

A Christmas Carol

CHARLES DICKENS





The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

The Call of the Wild

A Christmas Carol

Frankenstein

The Red Badge of Courage

The Scarlet Letter

A Tale of Two Cities

Treasure Island

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THE NOVELS

Saddleback Classics were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world’s greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic “flavor” of the original, each *Saddleback Classic* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

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reproducible, are designed to be used chapter-by-chapter as the student’s reading of the novel proceeds. At least two exercises are provided for each book chapter. One of the two always focuses on key vocabulary. The other may be a simple comprehension check or present an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A two-page final exam is also included in every *Saddleback Classics Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure your students each have a personal copy of the Glossary and the Facts About the Author and About the Times. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. The Facts About the Author and About the Times lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

CHARLES DICKENS

(1812–1870)

EARLY LIFE

Born in Portsmouth, England, Charles Dickens endured a difficult, unhappy childhood—much like the children in his novels. When his father, a clerk, was thrown into debtor’s prison, young Charles was sent to work in a shoe polish factory. In later years he was to say that his parents’ failure to educate him was his greatest disappointment. After the age of 14, he never returned to school.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

A lifelong hard worker, Dickens held jobs as an office boy and then as a newspaper reporter of debates in Parliament. Under the pen name *Boz*, he wrote humorous satires on daily life for a magazine. This series immediately became popular, encouraging Dickens to write his first novel, *The Pickwick Papers*—which was published when he was 24 years old. With the great success of this novel, Dickens’ literary career was launched.

In *Oliver Twist*, his next novel, Dickens began his lifelong crusade against social conditions that grossly abuse the poor, especially children. While on a reading tour in the United States, he also spoke out for the abolition of slavery.

The publication of *A Christmas Carol* in 1843 met with sensational success. As the father of 10 children, Dickens freely

admitted that he wrote the book in order to generate income. But he received an even greater reward: he said that he laughed and cried over *A Christmas Carol* as he did no other story.

OTHER WORKS

Among the best known of his 20 novels are *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Hard Times*, and *Great Expectations*.

Charles Dickens is considered by many to be the greatest English novelist. Although his work is sometimes criticized as sentimental, his stature as a great humorist and creator of characters is unparalleled. His imaginative use of detail, odd gestures, expressions, speech patterns, and physical characteristics has brought his characters to life for millions of readers. As a social critic, he attacked hypocrisy, injustice, and cruelty as few other novelists have had the skill to do.

The Victorian Era, when Dickens wrote, is sometimes called “the age of Dickens” because his characters and ideas so well exemplify life at this time.

LATER LIFE

At the age of 58, Dickens died in England while working on his novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He was buried in Westminster Abbey.

S A CHRISTMAS CAROL **FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS**

JACOB MARLEY

Former business partner of Ebenezer Scrooge; as the story begins, Marley has been dead for seven years.

EBENEZER SCROOGE

Unloved and unloving old businessman known for his bad temper and stinginess

BOB CRATCHIT

Kind-hearted, poorly paid clerk in Scrooge's office; a family man with several children

FRED

Scrooge's good-natured nephew, son of Scrooge's deceased sister, Fan

MARLEY'S GHOST

Spirit who returns to earth to warn Scrooge about the consequences of a selfish, money-obsessed life

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Childlike spirit who shows Scrooge scenes from his boyhood and young manhood

FAN

Scrooge's deceased sister

FEZZIWIG

Scrooge's kindly, light-hearted, and generous former employer

DICK WILKINS

A fellow apprentice with Scrooge in Fezziwig's shop

BELLE

Scrooge's long-ago sweetheart

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A spirit in the form of a jolly giant who shows Scrooge many different people, including Bob Cratchit's family, who enjoy the festive season in spite of difficult circumstances

MRS. CRATCHIT

Bob's wife; a kindly wife and mother

MARTHA, BELINDA, and PETER

The Cratchit family's eldest children

TINY TIM

The Cratchits' youngest child, a very small crippled boy

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME

A darkly draped and hooded phantom who shows Scrooge images of likely future events including Scrooge's own sad, unlamented death, the selling off of his belongings by ragpickers, and the death of Tiny Tim

In 1812, when Charles Dickens was born . . .

Napoleon marched on Moscow, James Madison was elected President of the United States, the first billiards parlor opened in England, the United States declared war on Britain, and Beethoven wrote his Seventh and Eighth Symphonies.

In 1843, when *A Christmas Carol* was published . . .

The United States Congress allocated \$30,000 to Samuel F. B. Morse to build

the first telegraph line, Sequoyah created the Cherokee alphabet, Daniel Webster retired as Secretary of State, and the world's first nightclub opened in Paris.

In 1870, when Charles Dickens died . . .

John D. Rockefeller founded the Standard Oil Company, Jules Verne published *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, Robert E. Lee died, Lenin was born, and P.T. Barnum was preparing to open "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn.

S **CHAPTER SUMMARIES**

CHAPTER 1

Seven years to the day after the death of his partner, Jacob Marley, a cold-hearted old businessman named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting house. It is Christmas Eve. The year is sometime in the mid-1800s, and the place is London. The day is bitterly cold and foggy. The inside of the office is cold as well, warmed only by two small fires. Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's humble clerk, is copying letters as Fred, Scrooge's nephew, comes in to wish his uncle a Merry Christmas. Scrooge berates the holiday as "humbug" and rudely turns down Fred's invitation to dinner the next day.

CHAPTER 2

Two gentlemen then visit the office asking for donations for the poor. Scrooge rants and raves in response, giving them

nothing. He says that he wants only to be left alone, and that poor people belong in prisons and workhouses. In contrast, out on the cold streets, shop windows are brightly decorated and people are happily preparing to celebrate the holiday. Some time after the gentlemen are sent on their way, Scrooge scolds his clerk for expecting to be off on Christmas day. As the workday finally ends, Bob Cratchit hurries home to his family and Scrooge dines alone in a nearby tavern.

CHAPTER 3

As he unlocks the door of his gloomy building, Scrooge is surprised to see Marley's face on the door knocker. Startled, but passing it off as a trick of the imagination, Scrooge enters his rooms and prepares for bed. But again he is startled—this time to hear the sound of a heavy chain

dragging up the stairs—and then to see Marley’s Ghost, a transparent but recognizable spirit, standing in front of him. Marley tells Scrooge that the chain of padlocks, ledgers, and cash boxes he carries is his punishment for living a selfish, money-obsessed life. He warns Scrooge that this fate will be his as well unless he changes his life. Before disappearing out the window, Marley’s Ghost tells Scrooge to expect a visit from three spirits.

CHAPTER 4

At the stroke of one, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past. Terrified, Scrooge is led by the gentle, childlike spirit on a journey backward in time. First they visit the school Scrooge attended as a boy. There they see young Ebenezer, alone in his room, after the other students have gone home for the holidays. Scrooge is touched and saddened to remember the loneliness of his childhood. At this time the boy’s only companions were the imaginary characters from his storybooks.

CHAPTER 5

Moving forward in time, the Spirit shows Scrooge a slightly older Ebenezer who has again been left alone at school while the other boys are celebrating with their families. In this scene, however, Scrooge’s sister Fan arrives to bring the sad boy home in a coach. In the next scene Scrooge is a young man, an apprentice at the shop of old Fezziwig, his kindly employer. A jolly Christmas party is shown at the end

of the Christmas Eve workday, when the Fezziwigs entertain not only their own employees but the neighborhood tradespeople as well. Old Scrooge is thrilled to see himself happy and young again, and to remember Fezziwig’s generosity. Finally, the spirit shows Belle, young Scrooge’s sweetheart, breaking their engagement because of his increasing preoccupation with money.

CHAPTER 6

The Ghost of Christmas Present, a gigantic spirit wearing a holly wreath on its head, appears on a throne of food in Scrooge’s room. When Scrooge touches the Spirit’s robe, their travels begin. First they visit the city streets where the Spirit sprinkles magic water to bless humble people’s lives with the good cheer of Christmas. At the Cratchits’ house they see a close, loving family joyfully preparing the Christmas feast. Scrooge becomes aware that, in spite of their modest circumstances and the ill health of their youngest child, Tiny Tim, the Cratchits enjoy a good deal of happiness. When Bob suggests a toast to Scrooge’s health, old Scrooge is dismayed to discover that the mention of his name throws a dark shadow on the party.

CHAPTER 7

Now the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to a humble miner’s cottage, a lonely lighthouse, and a ship at sea—all scenes of Christmas good will in spite of the lonely, isolated locations. Then they

move on to a jolly Christmas party at Fred's house. There they watch the guests enjoying music and games. Scrooge finds himself the object of a guessing game in which the clues are unflattering. But he also sees his faithful nephew urging the guests to join him in a toast to Scrooge's health. Before the Spirit leaves Scrooge, a boy and girl representing Ignorance and Want appear from beneath its skirts. When Scrooge asks if there is no hope for these wretched creatures, the spirit mocks Scrooge with his own words in support of prisons and workhouses.

CHAPTER 8

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, a silent phantom in a dark, hooded robe, appears to Scrooge next. For his first glimpse into the future, the phantom shows Scrooge three gentlemen talking in the street about an unnamed man who has died; they show little sympathy or sense of loss. The following scene is in a rundown salvage shop where petty thieves are selling off the dead man's belongings; they, too, are anything but sad about the man's death. Scrooge is aghast at their heartlessness. He wonders who the dead man could be.

CHAPTER 9

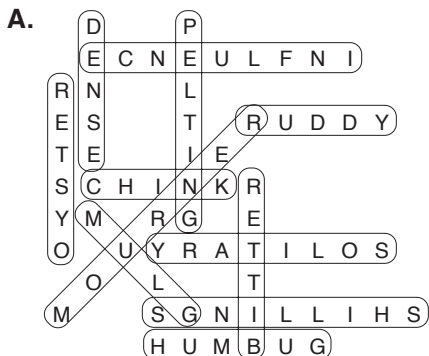
Now the phantom shows Scrooge a dead man lying on a bed, covered by a sheet. Scrooge cannot summon the courage to lift the sheet and see who the dead man is.

Scrooge then asks to see someone whose life was touched by the dead man. The phantom shows him a young couple who feel relief because of their overdue debt to the man who has died. Next the spirit takes Scrooge to the Cratchit house, which is strangely quiet and gloomy. With Tiny Tim's recent death, it has become a house of mourning. Then Scrooge sees another man in the office that was his. Finally, he is led to the churchyard where he reads his own name on a tombstone. In great agony, Scrooge begs the phantom for another chance to "wash away the writing on the stone."

CHAPTER 10

Awakening in his own room, Scrooge joyously jumps from his bed, his heart filled with resolve to rewrite the future he was shown. Laughing merrily, he looks out on a sunny day and tells a boy on the street to buy the biggest turkey in the poultry shop. When the boy returns with the turkey, Scrooge hires a cab to deliver the bird as a wonderful, anonymous surprise for the Cratchits. Then he goes to church, cheerfully greets his neighbors, and donates a great deal of money to the men collecting for the poor. That afternoon he surprises Fred by coming to dinner after all. A truly changed future for Scrooge is foretold the day after Christmas when Scrooge raises Bob's salary and promises continuing help for his struggling family.

1 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 1



- B. 1. mourner 2. chink 3. humbug 4. ruddy
C. 1. oyster 2. solitary 3. glum 4. influence
5. shillings 6. pelting 7. bitter 8. dense

2 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS: CHAPTER 1

1. a 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. b 7. a

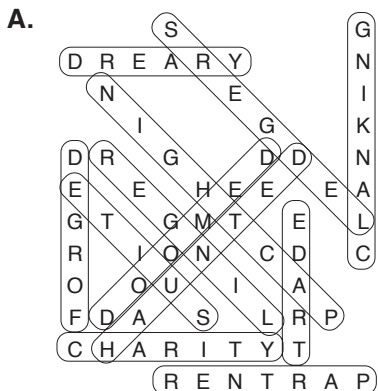
3 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 2

- A. **Across:** 2. sprigs 4. surplus
6. anonymous 8. idle 9. tavern
Down: 1. festive 3. intense
5. population 7. ill
B. 1. ill 2. sprigs 3. surplus 4. anonymous
5. idle 6. festive 7. tavern

4 INFERENCE: CHAPTER 2

Wording will vary, but should approximate:
1. It is a polite gesture that shows respect.
2. shelter, decent clothing, warmth, enough food, etc. 3. The visitors thought they were pitifully sad and lonely places. Scrooge thought people with no money belonged there. 4. Want, or doing without necessities, seems especially hard when others have Plenty, enough money to buy everything. 5. He felt proud that he hadn't given them a penny. As a successful businessman, he felt he had no duty to others. 6. Scrooge was objecting to paying Cratchit when he wouldn't be working on Christmas Day. Cratchit was picking his pocket.

5 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 3



- B. 1. charity 2. dreary 3. doomed 4. forged
5. ledgers 6. nightcap 7. suite
8. clanking 9. linger 10. partner

6 COMPREHENSION CHECK: CHAPTER 3

- A. 1. f 2. h 3. e 4. i 5. a 6. d 7. j
8. c 9. b 10. g
B. 1. pigtail 2. padlocks 3. witness
4. spirits

7 PERSONALIZING THE STORY: CHAPTER 3

Answers will vary.

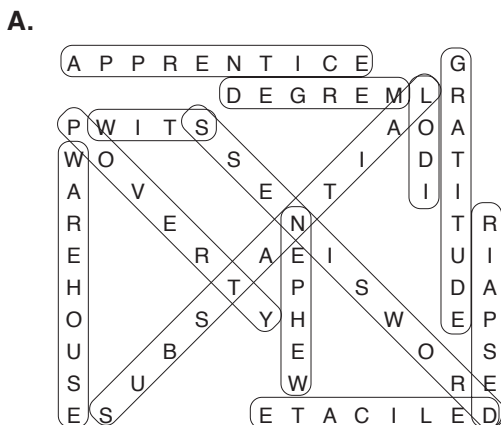
8 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 4

- A. **Across:** 2. feeble 3. pity 4. mortal
5. tolled 6. unearthly 7. deserted
Down: 1. glisten 2. foretold
3. perplexed
B. 1. tolled 2. perplexed 3. unearthly
4. glisten 5. deserted 6. pity 7. feeble
8. foretold 9. mortal

9 CAUSE AND EFFECT: CHAPTER 4

- A. 1. e 2. d 3. f 4. c 5. a 6. b
B. Wording will vary, but should approximate:
1. He thought the time was wrong because he couldn't believe he had slept through a day and into another night. 2. Marley's Ghost had warned him that he would have a visit from a spirit at one o'clock. 3. The boy was sad and lonely. It is likely that he imagined the appearance of the characters because he wanted company. 4. He was touched and saddened to remember his former, unhappy self.

10 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 5



- B. 1. delicate 2. poverty 3. drowsiness
4. nephew 5. gratitude 6. warehouse
7. apprentice 8. wits 9. substantial
10. merged 11. despair 12. idol

11 SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: CHAPTER 5

1. 11/poverty 2. 1/sister 3. 12/sweetheart
4. 2/wig 5. 5/housemaid 6. 7/partner
7. 4/fiddler 8. 8/apprentices 9. 6/mince
10. 3/floor 11. 9/praise 12. 10/pleasure

12 SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS: CHAPTER 5

- A. 1. hopefulness 2. saddest 3. stationary
4. murky 5. repulsive
B. 1. bustling 2. relaxed 3. concluded
4. insignificant 5. worry

13 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 6

- A. **Across:** 2. pudding 5. restored 6. holly
8. ogre 9. vacant 10. hearth
Down: 1. sage 2. punch 3. dwelling
4. glorious 7. wreath
- B. 1. wreath 2. restored 3. dwelling 4. sage
5. pudding 6. hearth 7. vacant 8. ogre

14 DESCRIPTIVE WORDS: CHAPTER 6

- A. 1. loud 2. bright 3. mighty 4. glowing
5. shining 6. brown 7. hot 8. Spanish
9. moist 10. French 11. happy
12. special 13. hearty 14. precious
15. little 16. iron 17. tender
18. friendly 19. vacant 20. surplus
21. stingy 22. decorated
- B. 1. dozen 2. strange 3. jolly 4. green,
white 5. joyful 6. poor

15 WHO AND WHERE: CHAPTER 6

- A. 1. Scrooge 2. The Spirit 3. Mrs. Cratchit
4. Peter Cratchit 5. Belinda Cratchit
6. Martha Cratchit 7. Tiny Tim
8. Bob Cratchit
- B. 1. A Christmas wreath was on the Spirit's
head. 2. Sausages, apples, and cakes
were heaped on the floor. 3. Standing
outside the baker's door, the young
Cratchits . . . 4. Martha hid herself
behind the closet door.

16 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 7

A.

- B. 1. helmsman 2. moor 3. bleak
4. contagious 5. offenses 6. savage
7. phantom 8. misery

17 INFERENCE: CHAPTER 7

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. a 6. a

18 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 8

- A. 1. garment 2. merchants 3. volunteer
4. trivial 5. wretched 6. profit
- B. **Across:** 2. trivial 6. undertaker
8. calico 9. garment 10. disgust
Down: 1. profit 3. volunteer
4. wretched 5. merchants 7. reply

19 COMPREHENSION CHECK: CHAPTER 8

- A. 1. pointed 2. Scrooge's 3. another man
4. never 5. sell 6. value 7. cold
- B. 1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b

20 PERSONALIZING THE STORY: CHAPTER 8

Answers will vary.

21 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 9

A.

- B. 1. c 2. d 3. a 4. b
- C. 1. emotion 2. honor 3. strive 4. dwindled
5. chamber

22 SEQUENCE OF EVENTS: CHAPTER 9

1. 8/cemetery 2. 10/neglected 3. 5/debt
4. 9/gate 5. 1/unwept 6. 12/fate 7. 6/hearts
8. 2/fireplace 9. 11/pity 10. 4/husband
11. 7/walked 12. 3/glanced

23 WORDS AND MEANINGS: CHAPTER 10

- A. 1. brilliant 2. poultry 3. intelligent
4. collections 5. courage 6. salary
7. observed
- B. **Across:** 1. collections 3. crown 5. poultry
6. salary 8. intelligent
Down: 2. observed 3. courage 4. brilliant
5. pardon 7. coal

24 INFERENCE: CHAPTER 10

1. a 2. b 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. a

25 BOOK SEQUENCE

1. 5/closet 2. 4/office 3. 10/pudding
4. 6/business 5. 1/married 6. 8/Ghost of
Christmas Present 7. 2/prisons 8. 7/Ghost of
Christmas Past 9. 11/remember 10. 9/Ghost
of Christmas Yet to Come 11. 3/caroler

26 FINAL EXAM, Part 1

1. c 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. d 6. a 7. c

FINAL EXAM, Part 2

Wording will vary but should approximate:
1. Bob's job was not important. He was a clerk
who worked in a "dismal cell." He copied
letters. 2. The weather outdoors was foggy,
cold, and getting colder. Scrooge himself was
described as a cold man, inside and out.
3. Scrooge says that people are foolish to
spend money at Christmas, poor people
should go to prison, and it's not his business.
4. Marley's repeated acts of greed and
selfishness are links in the chain he wears for
eternity. 5. Fezziwig was thoughtful and
generous with his employees. Scrooge was
mean, scolding, and hard on Bob Cratchit.
6. The Spirit of Christmas Present carried a
torch that could sprinkle good cheer. 7. He
bought Bob's turkey, donated money, gave
Bob a raise.

27-33 Answers will vary.

action what happens in a story; the acts or events that take place

The war story was full of battle action.

author the writer of a book, story, article, etc.

Ernest Hemingway was an American author.

author's purpose the author's specific goal or reason for writing a certain book

In that novel, the author's purpose was to make readers laugh.

character a fictional person who plays a part in a story or novel

Long John Silver is an important character in *Treasure Island*.

classic excellent artwork, novel, painting, symphony, etc. that remains popular over many years

Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* has become an American classic

climax the outcome of the novel's main conflict

The capture of the criminal was the climax of the detective story.

conflict The struggle between characters or forces at the center of the story

The conflict was resolved when the suspect confessed.

description the parts of a story or novel that tell about the appearance of the setting or characters

His description of the Alps was breathtaking.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel, story, or play

The dialogue in that comedy is very witty and amusing.

effect in literature, an impression created by the writer

Murder mysteries often create a suspenseful, chilling effect.

event a specific occurrence; something that happens

A plane crash is the first event in that adventure novel.

fiction a literary work in which the plot and characters are the products of the author's imagination

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a popular work of fiction.

imagery figures of speech that help the reader to visualize the characters or setting; pictures in words

In Stephen Crane's imagery, the color of blood suggests courage.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel; sometimes the first part of a novel that sets the scene

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

mood the overall feeling or atmosphere the author creates in a story or novel

The author's skillful use of language created a dismal, hopeless mood.

moral the instructive point of a story or novel; the lesson to be drawn by the reader

The moral of the story is to choose your friends carefully.

motive the driving force, either internal or external, that makes a character do something

What was the character's motive for lying?

narrator, narration the character who tells the story in his or her own words; the telling of a story's events

Jim Hawkins is both the narrator of and a character in *Treasure Island*.

novel a long form of fictional literature with a complex plot

***The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is one of the greatest American novels.**

pace the speed at which a story or novel develops and moves along

The pace of the rescue scene was very fast and exciting.

passage a section of a written work; may include just one line or several paragraphs

My favorite passage described the character's childhood.

plot the chain of events in a story that leads to its outcome

The war novel's plot is packed with action.

point of view the mental position from which a character sees the events of the story unfold

The character's great wealth influenced his point of view about the poor.

quotation a passage quoted; the exact words spoken by a character; the words set off between quotation marks

"It was a season of hope. It was a season of despair," is a famous quotation from *A Tale of Two Cities*.

realism the author's emphasis on showing life as it really is, not romanticized or idealized

Stephen Crane used great realism in describing the sights and sounds of battle.

sequence the order in which story events take place

To solve the crime, the detective must determine the exact sequence of events.

setting where and when a story happens; the location and time

The setting of *A Christmas Carol* is London in the mid-1800s.

style the special way a writer uses language to express both literary form and his or her own life experience

Ernest Hemingway's style is famous for his use of short sentences and easy-to-understand words.

symbol a person or thing that stands for, or represents, something else

In Hawthorne's famous novel, the scarlet letter is a symbol for adultery.

theme the central meaning of a story, play, or novel; the main idea, the point

Ambition and revenge are common themes in Shakespeare's plays.

tone the feeling given by the author's voice; the attitude expressed by the author's use of language

Is the tone of her dialogue humorous or formal?

voice the author's unique way of telling a story; a combination of personality and use of literary tools; the quality that sets one writer apart from other writers

Mark Twain's colorful voice is not hard to recognize.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words. They may go across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| _____ CHINK | _____ SOLITARY |
| _____ RUDDY | _____ SHILLINGS |
| _____ MOURNER | _____ PELTING |
| _____ DENSE | _____ HUMBUG |
| _____ GLUM | _____ INFLUENCE |
| _____ BITTER | _____ OYSTER |

W	D	N	E	P	I	W	S	A	J	U	W
Y	E	C	N	E	U	L	F	N	I	S	H
R	N	A	L	L	I	T	T	E	L	G	E
E	S	D	A	T	S	R	U	D	D	Y	T
T	E	E	E	I	E	D	M	Y	M	O	S
S	C	H	I	N	K	R	T	H	E	R	I
Y	M	W	R	G	S	E	H	T	A	W	O
O	I	U	Y	R	A	T	I	L	O	S	W
S	O	L	L	I	B	T	E	W	I	L	N
M	S	I	S	G	N	I	L	L	I	H	S
B	E	P	H	U	M	B	U	G	R	E	Z

B. Write a word from the puzzle to complete each sentence.

1. Scrooge was Marley’s only _____ .
2. Fog poured in every _____ and keyhole.
3. “Bah!” cried Scrooge, “ _____ !”
4. Fred’s face was _____ and handsome.

C. Write a puzzle word under the definition it matches.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. soft-bodied shellfish
_____ | 5. British coins of small value
_____ |
| 2. living or being alone
_____ | 6. beating down hard
_____ |
| 3. unhappy, downhearted
_____ | 7. extremely cold
_____ |
| 4. the power to make a difference
_____ | 8. very thick
_____ |

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to show the best answer to each question.

- 1. If Scrooge was Marley’s “only mourner,” what is implied (suggested but not stated) about Marley?**
 - a. Marley was not liked and would not be missed.
 - b. No funeral was held for Marley.

- 2. What does it mean to say that Scrooge is “solitary as an oyster”?**
 - a. He has the shape of a shellfish.
 - b. He has no friends or social life.

- 3. Why did dogs tug their owners into doorways when they saw Scrooge coming?**
 - a. Scrooge gave them the evil eye.
 - b. Scrooge always kicked dogs.

- 4. Why was it hard to see the houses on the other side of the narrow street?**
 - a. The fog was very thick and dense.
 - b. The houses were very small.

- 5. Why did Scrooge keep the coal box in his own room?**
 - a. There was a shortage of coal that year.
 - b. He didn’t want Cratchit to take any more.

- 6. Why was Scrooge so unpleasant to his nephew Fred?**
 - a. He thought Fred wanted to borrow money.
 - b. Scrooge didn’t believe in Christmas merriment.

- 7. Why did Scrooge think it was foolish for Bob Cratchit to celebrate Christmas?**
 - a. He thought Cratchit was too poor to celebrate anything.
 - b. He wanted Cratchit to be boiled in his own pudding.

NAME _____ DATE _____

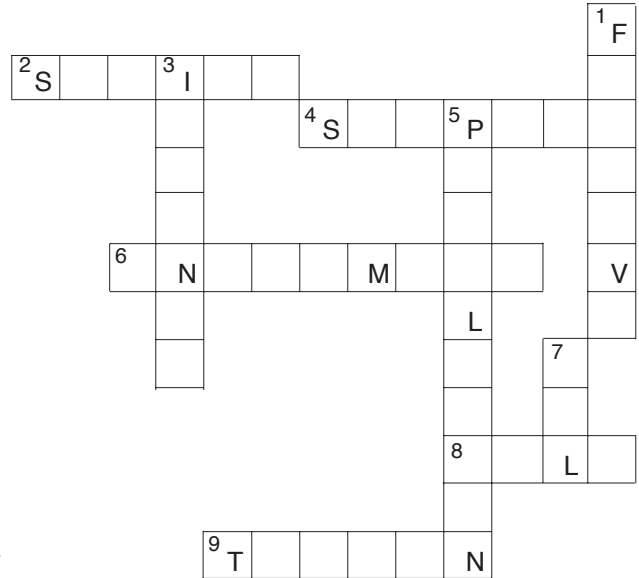
A. Use the clues to solve the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2. little twigs or branches
- 4. extra; not needed
- 6. person whose name is not known
- 8. not working; not busy
- 9. a small bar that serves food

DOWN

- 1. merry; in the holiday spirit
- 3. extreme; very strong or deep
- 5. all the people living in a certain place
- 7. negative; bad



B. Use words from the puzzle to complete the sentences.

- 1. With _____ will, Scrooge nodded to his clerk.
- 2. Berries and _____ of holly decorated the shop windows.
- 3. If more people died, it would decrease the _____ population.
- 4. The gentleman asked Scrooge if he wanted to be _____ .
- 5. Scrooge said he couldn't afford to make _____ people merry.
- 6. Christmas is a _____ season.
- 7. Scrooge had dinner at a nearby _____ .

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answer each question in your own words. Write in complete sentences.

1. The two men who visited Scrooge “stood with their hats off” in his office. Think about places you have seen men and boys remove their hats. Is this a sign of rudeness or politeness? Explain.

2. One man said that hundreds of thousands of people don’t have “common comforts.” What are some examples of “common comforts”? Name at least three.

3. Scrooge and his visitors had different opinions about prisons and workhouses. Explain those two very different viewpoints.

4. One of the men said that, at Christmas, “Want is keenly felt and Plenty rejoices.” What did he mean? Give examples of “Want” and “Plenty.”

5. How did Scrooge’s response to his visitors give him “an improved opinion of himself”? What was his reasoning?

6. Scrooge told Bob Cratchit that something was a “poor excuse for picking a man’s pocket.” What was he talking about? Who did he think was picking his pocket?

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words. They may go across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| _____ CHARITY | _____ LEDGERS |
| _____ HAUNTED | _____ DREARY |
| _____ NIGHTCAP | _____ CLANKING |
| _____ LINGER | _____ PARTNER |
| _____ TRADE | _____ DOOMED |
| _____ SUITE | _____ FORGED |

Q	U	E	S	A	R	A	H	S	G
D	R	E	A	R	Y	S	A	R	N
A	N	H	W	H	E	A	T	E	I
V	E	I	R	W	I	G	L	B	K
D	R	W	G	I	L	D	D	L	N
E	B	E	A	H	E	E	N	E	A
G	T	N	G	M	T	S	E	W	L
R	E	I	O	N	R	C	D	S	C
O	N	O	U	T	I	O	A	U	R
F	D	A	S	S	T	L	R	P	O
C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	T	S	E
E	Q	U	R	E	N	T	R	A	P

B. Write a word from the puzzle under each definition.

1. kindness; love in action

6. warm cap worn to bed

2. gloomy; sad looking

7. apartment; group of connected rooms

3. bad or tragic fate

8. making a sharp, metallic sound

4. shaped or formed

9. to keep on staying

5. account books

10. fellow owner of your business

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Write a letter to show how each sentence should be completed.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. _____ As he turned the key in the lock,
Scrooge saw | a. do so in death. |
| 2. _____ Scrooge liked darkness because | b. floating out the
window. |
| 3. _____ Scrooge heard a clanking noise
below that | c. escape the same fate. |
| 4. _____ The fire leaped up as if to say | d. traveled without rest
or peace. |
| 5. _____ A living person must walk among
his fellows or | e. sounded like heavy
chains dragging. |
| 6. _____ In the past seven years, Marley’s
spirit had | f. Marley’s face looking
at him. |
| 7. _____ Marley said that his trade was only | g. charity, mercy, and
kindness. |
| 8. _____ Marley said that Scrooge still had a
chance to | h. it was cheap. |
| 9. _____ Marley’s Ghost left the room by | i. “Marley’s Ghost!” |
| 10. _____ Marley said his real business on
earth was | j. a drop in the ocean
of his business. |

B. Unscramble the words. Then use the words to complete the sentences.

SKLAPCOD _____	SNITSEW _____
LAIGTIP _____	PRISTIS _____

- Marley’s hair was done up in a _____ .
- Marley’s chain was made of ledgers, cash boxes, and _____ .
- Marley’s fate was to _____ what he had not shared on earth.
- Marley tells Scrooge that three _____ will come to haunt him.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read the boldfaced lines from Chapter 3. Then write about a similar event, situation, or feeling in your own life.

1. Scrooge lived in a gloomy set of rooms in an old and dreary building.

Have you ever spent time in a gloomy house or apartment? Describe some gloomy details. How did it make you feel to be there?

2. Scrooge saw Marley’s face where the door knocker should have been.

Has your imagination ever played a trick on you? Tell about a time you thought you saw something that was really something else.

3. Scrooge heard a clanking noise like a chain being dragged.

Have you ever been startled by a strange noise? What did the noise sound like? What did it turn out to be?

4. “You will be haunted by three Spirits.”

Do you believe in ghosts? Have you or someone you know ever seen one? Where and when did it appear? Describe what happened.

5. Marley’s Ghost warned Scrooge to “avoid the path I walk.”

Has anyone ever warned you about something you were doing wrong? What bad consequences could result if you didn’t listen? Did you take that person’s advice? Explain what happened.

NAME _____ DATE _____

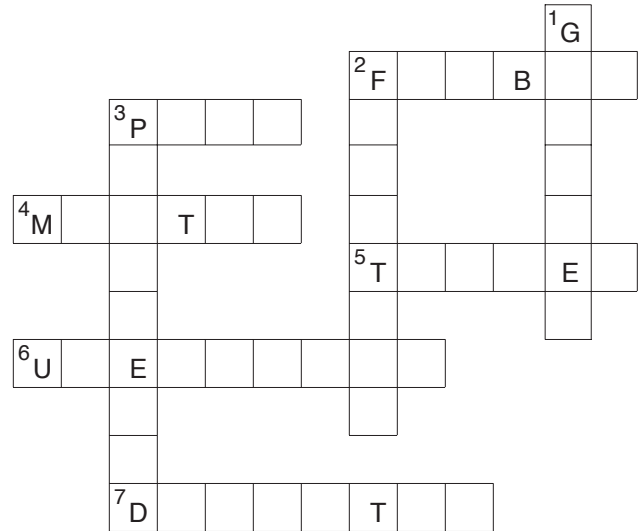
A. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

2. weak; having little strength or power
3. to feel sorry for; sympathize
4. being subject to death
5. rang out
6. supernatural; not of this world
7. empty; no one there

DOWN

1. glitter in the light
2. predicted; prophesied
3. undecided; confused



B. Use words from the puzzle to complete the sentences.

1. The church bell _____ 12 o'clock.
2. Feeling _____, Scrooge wondered if he had seen Marley's Ghost in a dream.
3. Scrooge was face to face with an _____ visitor.
4. Why did Scrooge's eye _____ as he watched the boys walk by?
5. "The school is not quite _____," said the Ghost.
6. Scrooge looked in _____ at his former self.
7. He saw a lonely boy reading by a _____ fire.
8. "Are you the Spirit whose coming was _____ to me?" Scrooge asked.
9. "I will fall," cried Scrooge, "for I am but a _____."

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Read the list of **causes** on the left. Then write a letter to show the **effect** of each **cause**.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ Thick frost covers Scrooge’s window. | a. Scrooge passes through the wall. |
| 2. _____ The clock strikes one. | b. He weeps to see his former self. |
| 3. _____ Scrooge’s bed curtains are drawn aside. | c. Scrooge is afraid that he will fall. |
| 4. _____ The Spirit leads Scrooge toward the window. | d. Lights flash in Scrooge’s room. |
| 5. _____ The Spirit lays his hand on Scrooge’s heart. | e. He wipes it with the sleeve of his robe. |
| 6. _____ Scrooge sees a lonely boy at his desk. | f. He is face to face with an unearthly visitor. |

B. Answer the questions in your own words.

1. When the clock struck 12, Scrooge thought “an icicle must have gotten into the works.” What **caused** him to think that?

2. What **caused** Scrooge’s uneasiness as he waited for the clock to strike one?

3. What probably **caused** the storybook characters to come alive for the boy Scrooge used to be?

4. What **caused** “something” to appear on Scrooge’s cheek and his lips to tremble?

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words. They may go across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ___ WAREHOUSE | ___ MERGED |
| ___ SUBSTANTIAL | ___ WITS |
| ___ POVERTY | ___ IDOL |
| ___ DROWSINESS | ___ DESPAIR |
| ___ APPRENTICE | ___ DELICATE |
| ___ GRATITUDE | ___ NEPHEW |

A	P	P	R	E	N	T	I	C	E	O	N	G	E
T	O	W	T	H	D	E	G	R	E	M	L	R	R
P	W	I	T	S	E	O	C	L	O	A	O	A	K
W	O	R	O	C	S	K	W	E	I	R	D	T	E
A	G	V	O	N	I	E	G	T	T	O	I	I	R
R	O	C	E	K	A	R	N	O	U	N	D	T	R
E	T	E	H	R	H	A	E	I	O	U	S	U	I
H	E	T	O	N	T	I	P	G	S	H	T	D	A
O	S	P	L	S	H	Y	H	S	P	W	L	E	P
U	A	S	B	H	I	W	E	A	S	T	O	K	S
S	I	U	N	G	A	B	W	A	T	H	L	R	E
E	S	O	N	G	A	E	T	A	C	I	L	E	D

B. Write a word from the puzzle to match each definition.

1. frail, dainty, easily damaged

7. person who is learning a trade

2. state of being very poor

8. the power to think and reason

3. sleepiness, weariness

9. real, firm, having substance

4. your brother or sister's son

10. came together; joined as one

5. sense of thankfulness

11. feeling of hopelessness

6. building where goods are stored

12. something worshipped as a god

NAME _____ DATE _____

First complete each sentence with a word from the box. Then number the events to show which happened first, second, and so on.

housemaid	mince	pleasure	sweetheart	floor	fiddler
apprentices	wig	poverty	partner	sister	praise

- _____ 1. Scrooge had come to care about nothing but avoiding _____ .
- _____ 2. Young Scrooge’s _____ tells him that he is coming home for good.
- _____ 3. The husband of Scrooge’s former _____ says that Scrooge seems quite alone in the world.
- _____ 4. Scrooge immediately recognizes the old gentleman in the _____ .
- _____ 5. The milkman, the baker, and the _____ all joined in the dancing.
- _____ 6. Mrs. Fezziwig was worthy to be her husband’s _____ in every way.
- _____ 7. In came a _____ , ready to play.
- _____ 8. The _____ went to their beds in the back shop.
- _____ 9. Roast beef was served, along with _____ pies and cake.
- _____ 10. Fezziwig cried, “Let’s clear the _____ !”
- _____ 11. Dick and Ebenezer had nothing but _____ for old Fezziwig.
- _____ 12. Fezziwig had the power to make the workers’ jobs a _____ or a toil.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Notice the boldfaced word as you read each sentence. Then look in the box for an **antonym** (word that means the opposite) for the boldfaced word. Write the antonym on the line.

relaxed	murky	hopefulness	bustling	stationary
saddest	worry	insignificant	repulsive	concluded

1. Alone at school for the holidays, young Ebenezer walked up and down in **despair**. _____
2. “We’ll have the **merriest** _____ Christmas in all the world!” cried little Fan.
3. To make room for dancing, every **movable** _____ thing was cleared away.
4. Soon the warehouse was as **bright** _____ as any ballroom.
5. In came Fezziwig’s daughters, beaming and **lovable**. _____ .

B. Find a **synonym** (word with the same meaning) in the box above for each boldfaced word. Write the synonym on the line.

1. The Spirit led Scrooge from the school into the **busy** _____ city.
2. The Fezziwigs made everyone feel **welcome** _____ .
3. When the clock struck 11, the Christmas party **broke up** _____ .
4. Fezziwig had spent but a **small** _____ amount of money on the party.
5. As a young man, Scrooge’s face had begun to wear the signs of **care** _____ and greed.

NAME _____ DATE _____

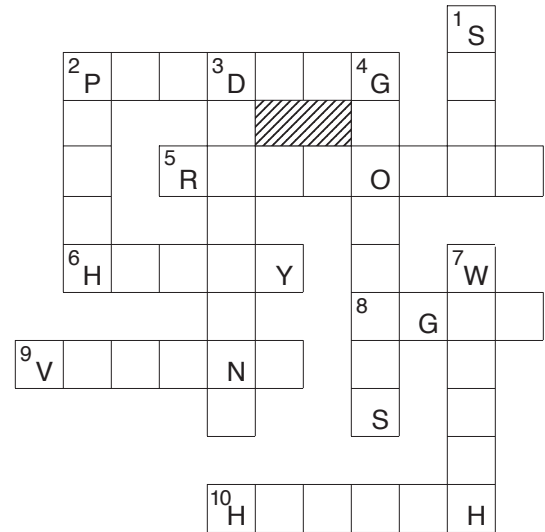
A. Use the clues to solve the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 2. creamy, soft dessert
- 5. renewed, reconditioned
- 6. plant with shiny green pointed leaves
- 8. a cruel or evil person
- 9. empty; nothing there
- 10. stone or brick floor of a fireplace

DOWN

- 1. a tasty, leafy spice
- 2. a sweet fruit drink
- 3. place where people live
- 4. beautiful, splendid, magnificent
- 7. ring of leaves or flowers, twisted together



B. Complete each sentence with a word from the puzzle.

- 1. The Ghost wore a holly _____ on its head.
- 2. A few drops of water from the torch _____ the good humor of the tired people.
- 3. The Ghost stopped to bless Bob Cratchit's _____ .
- 4. The Cratchits' Christmas goose was seasoned with _____ and onion.
- 5. After dinner, the _____ was brought out.
- 6. Later, all the Cratchits gathered around the _____ .
- 7. The Ghost saw a _____ seat in the corner.
- 8. Scrooge was the _____ of the Cratchit family.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Unscramble the adjective on the left that was used to describe the person or object on the right. Write the unscrambled word on the line.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. DOUL _____ SNORE | 12. PALCISE _____ FLAVOR |
| 2. GRIBTH _____ LIGHTS | 13. ARTHEY _____ NATURE |
| 3. TIMHGY _____ BLAZE | 14. ROSECUPI _____ FATHER |
| 4. NOGWIGL _____ TORCH | 15. TITELL _____ CRUTCH |
| 5. SINGHIN _____ ICICLES | 16. RONI _____ FRAME |
| 6. WRONB _____ CURLS | 17. REDNET _____ GOOSE |
| 7. THO _____ CIDER | 18. RIEDFLYN _____ SNOWBALL |
| 8. SHIPNAS _____ ONIONS | 19. TAVANC _____ SEAT |
| 9. STIOM _____ FIGS | 20. USPURLS _____ POPULATION |
| 10. CHERFN _____ PLUMS | 21. STYGIN _____ MAN |
| 11. PAYPH _____ PEOPLE | 22. DEARDOCET _____ BOXES |

B. Complete each sentence with one or more adjectives from the box.

joyful	green	poor	strange	white	jolly	dozen
--------	-------	------	---------	-------	-------	-------

- The light was more alarming than a _____ ghosts.
- A _____ voice called Scrooge by name.
- On the couch of food sat a _____ giant.
- The Spirit wore a _____ robe bordered with _____ fur.
- The people shoveling the snow were _____ .
- A _____ dinner most needed a sprinkle from the Spirit's torch.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Complete each sentence with a character’s name from the box.

Bob Cratchit	The Spirit	Belinda Cratchit	Scrooge
Martha Cratchit	Tiny Tim	Peter Cratchit	Mrs. Cratchit

1. _____ did not wish to be taken by surprise.
2. _____ could fit into the smallest places with ease.
3. _____ said, “I’ll drink to his health for your sake.”
4. _____ mashed the potatoes.
5. _____ helped her mother set the table.
6. _____ ran into her father’s arms.
7. _____ behaved as good as gold.
8. _____ served hot cider from the jug.

B. Rewrite the sentences below to correct the errors. In your new sentences, show *where* each thing was placed or event occurred.

1. A Christmas wreath was behind the closet door.

2. Sausages, apples, and cakes were on the Spirit’s head.

3. Standing on the Spirit’s head, the young Cratchits smelled a goose cooking.

4. Martha hid herself outside the baker’s door.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words. They may go across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ___ CONTAGIOUS | ___ HELMSMAN |
| ___ PHANTOM | ___ MOOR |
| ___ OFFENSES | ___ BLEAK |
| ___ MISERY | ___ HARK |
| ___ WHIMS | ___ REFUGE |
| ___ SAVAGE | ___ SOLEMN |

R	O	B	W	Y	O	R	U	B	O
H	E	L	M	S	M	A	N	A	T
G	E	E	N	T	Y	L	O	D	S
M	O	A	W	N	T	F	H	U	O
I	O	K	E	S	F	T	O	R	L
S	E	T	A	E	M	I	M	K	E
E	R	R	N	I	G	L	R	L	M
R	I	S	F	A	F	A	E	S	N
Y	E	B	T	W	H	I	M	S	U
S	T	N	A	D	R	P	A	M	Y
M	O	O	R	E	G	U	F	E	R
C	E	G	A	V	A	S	E	T	H

B. Use words from the puzzle to complete the sentences.

- On the ship a _____ stood at the wheel.
- Huge stones were all around the _____ .
- Nothing but moss and grass grew in this _____ place.
- There is nothing so _____ as laughter and good feeling.
- Fred said that Scrooge’s _____ carry their own punishment.
- In the game Fred was thinking of a live, disagreeable, _____ animal.
- In the mist, a hooded _____ was coming toward Scrooge.
- The Ghost left his blessings wherever he saw _____ .

NAME _____ DATE _____

Circle a letter to show how each sentence should be completed.

1. **Scrooge saw Christmas being celebrated in a humble miner’s hut and in a lonely lighthouse. By taking Scrooge there, what point was the Spirit making?**
 - a. that Christmas isn’t happy for poor people
 - b. that Christmas spirit doesn’t depend on money

2. **What did Fred mean when he said that Scrooge’s “offenses carry their own punishment”?**
 - a. Meanness to others hurts the mean person most.
 - b. Scrooge should sentence himself to a prison term.

3. **Why does Fred say he is sorry for his uncle?**
 - a. because he has no loving wife or children
 - b. because he misses out on many good times

4. **Why did Scrooge beg the Spirit to let him stay at Fred’s until the party was over?**
 - a. Scrooge wanted to hear what they said about him.
 - b. Scrooge was enjoying the music and the games.

5. **Why did Fred insist that his guests “drink to Scrooge’s health”?**
 - a. Scrooge had given them a lot of laughs.
 - b. Scrooge was old and in poor health.

6. **Two ragged scowling children appeared from the folds of the Spirit’s robe. What did these children represent?**
 - a. All the children of the world who suffer from poverty and lack of education.
 - b. The kind of tiresome people who should be sent to prisons and workhouses.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Circle a word to correctly complete each sentence.

1. The Phantom was completely covered in a black (shroud / garment).
2. The Spirit took Scrooge among the (migrants / merchants) in the heart of the city.
3. Some men decided to (volunteer / vacate) to attend the funeral.
4. The Spirit surprised Scrooge by listening in on (terrible / trivial) conversations.
5. In the rundown area, the shops and the houses were (wreckage / wretched).
6. Scrooge didn't know that his belongings would (profit / prohibit) anyone when he died.

B. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

2. unimportant; not meaningful
6. one who buries the dead
8. inexpensive cloth
9. item of clothing
10. feeling of dislike or distaste

DOWN

1. money gained after expenses
3. to work without pay
4. miserable; decayed
5. those who run a store or sell things
7. to answer or respond

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Circle a word or words to correctly complete each sentence.

1. The ghostly phantom (spoke / pointed) to guide Scrooge into the heart of the city.
2. Scrooge and the phantom overheard some merchants talking about (Marley's / Scrooge's) death.
3. In his office Scrooge was surprised to see (himself / another man) sitting in his usual corner.
4. Scrooge had (often / never) visited the rundown area of the city.
5. Carrying bundles, three people entered a dirty shop to (buy / sell) stolen goods.
6. Old Joe added up the (value / weight) of things like a pin and two sleeve buttons.
7. The woman who took Scrooge's blankets said he wasn't likely to get (arrested / cold) without them.

B. Write a letter to show which ending on the right completes each sentence beginning on the left.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. _____ Because Scrooge hoped to start a new life, | a. as long as lunch was provided. |
| 2. _____ The merchants would go to the funeral | b. was the dead man's bed curtains. |
| 3. _____ A gray-haired man about 70 years old | c. he followed the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. |
| 4. _____ The heavy roll of dark material | d. sat by a charcoal stove. |

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read the boldfaced lines from Chapter 8. Then write about a similar event, situation, or feeling in your own life.

1. Scrooge feared the phantom’s silent shape. His legs trembled beneath him.

Have you ever been so afraid that you *trembled*? What were you frightened of? What eventually happened?

2. “I don’t know of anybody who will go to the funeral.”

Have you ever gone to a funeral? How many other people attended? What was said and done there?

3. Scrooge knew that these were men of business, very wealthy and important.

Do you know any “wealthy and important” people? What are they like? How are they different from you?

4. In one dirty shop there were piled heaps of rusty keys, nails, chains, files, scales, and bits of scrap iron.

Have you ever visited a shop that sells broken things or parts of things? Do you have a place at home where such things are kept?

5. “We knew that we were helping ourselves. It’s no sin.”

In your opinion is it wrong to help yourself to a dead person’s things? Explain why or why not.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Circle the hidden words in the puzzle. They may go across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| ___ CEMETERY | ___ CHURCHYARD |
| ___ STRIVE | ___ HONOR |
| ___ FATE | ___ EMBARRASSED |
| ___ CHAMBER | ___ DEBT |
| ___ EMOTION | ___ COMPOSED |
| ___ MIRACLE | ___ DWINDLED |

C	O	M	P	O	S	E	D	O	D	L
M	A	R	O	N	O	H	C	D	O	D
N	A	L	E	D	H	A	D	Y	E	W
A	F	R	A	B	M	A	R	S	N	I
D	O	N	T	H	M	E	S	A	T	N
N	F	S	A	R	T	A	M	H	E	D
O	E	H	T	E	R	A	H	D	A	L
I	C	T	M	R	O	W	W	C	I	E
T	H	E	A	M	I	O	T	B	E	D
O	C	B	H	F	E	V	R	E	A	N
M	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	D	M	O
E	D	R	A	Y	H	C	R	U	H	C

B. Write a letter to match each word with its definition.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. ___ debt | a. burial place |
| 2. ___ embarrassed | b. one’s outcome; the way things will turn out in the end |
| 3. ___ cemetery | c. money owed |
| 4. ___ fate | d. felt uncomfortable, self-conscious |

C. Complete each sentence with a word from the puzzle.

- “Does no person feel _____ about this man’s death?” asked Scrooge.
- “I will _____ Christmas in my heart,” Scrooge promised.
- “The Spirits shall _____ within me from now on,” Scrooge said.
- Fluttering, the Spirit collapsed and _____ down into a bedpost.
- A body lay in a dark _____ beneath a thin sheet.

NAME _____ DATE _____

First complete each sentence with a word from the box. Then number the events to show which happened first, second, and so on.

fireplace	fate	husband	gate	glanced	unwept
neglected	pity	cemetery	debt	hearts	walked

- _____ 1. Bob says that he visited the _____ .
- _____ 2. Scrooge read his own name on the _____ tombstone.
- _____ 3. The young husband and wife talked worriedly about their _____ .
- _____ 4. Scrooge and the Spirit enter an iron _____ .
- _____ 5. The body of a dead man, _____ and uncared for, was lying on the bed.
- _____ 6. Scrooge said a last prayer to change his _____ .
- _____ 7. A man's death had made their _____ lighter.
- _____ 8. Gnawing rats were heard beneath the _____ .
- _____ 9. Scrooge begged the Spirit to have _____ .
- _____ 10. The young _____ 's face was sad and worn with care.
- _____ 11. Peter Cratchit said his father now _____ slower than he used to.
- _____ 12. Walking up and down the room, the woman _____ at the clock.

NAME _____ DATE _____

A. Circle a word to correctly complete each sentence.

1. Scrooge’s laugh was the father of a long, long line of (bristling / brilliant) laughs.
2. “Do you know the (poultry / poetry) shop at the corner?” Scrooge asked the boy.
3. Scrooge said the boy was (intrusive / intelligent) and remarkable.
4. Scrooge gave a large amount of money to the gentleman making the Christmas (collections / corrections).
5. Scrooge had to get up his (cowardice / courage) to knock at Fred’s door.
6. Scrooge told Bob Cratchit that he was going to raise his (ceiling / salary).
7. “God bless us, every one!” Tiny Tim (observed / obscured).

B. Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

1. gathered contributions of money
3. British unit of money
5. fowl such as chicken, goose, turkey
6. pay given for work
8. smart, bright

DOWN

2. saw; watched carefully
3. bravery; ability to face danger or trouble
4. bright, sparkling
5. to forgive or excuse
7. black carbon substance used for fuel

NAME _____ DATE _____

Read the lines from Chapter 10. Then circle a letter to show what is **implied** (suggested but not stated) by each statement.

- 1. The things that would have been may yet be changed.**
 - a. Scrooge still had a chance to alter his future.
 - b. He could set the clock to any hour he liked.

- 2. For a man who had been out of practice for so many years, Scrooge's laugh was wonderful.**
 - a. Scrooge found it boring to practice laughing.
 - b. Scrooge had been grumpy for a very long time.

- 3. "I shall love this door knocker as long as I live!"**
 - a. Scrooge was grateful for the events that began with seeing Marley's face on the door knocker.
 - b. Scrooge's door knocker was made of solid brass, and it was very valuable.

- 4. Bob Cratchit wouldn't know who sent the turkey.**
 - a. Scrooge was trying to make Bob feel embarrassed.
 - b. Scrooge wanted Bob to have a nice surprise.

- 5. "I fear my name may not be pleasant to you."**
 - a. Scrooge was used to people making fun of his name.
 - b. Scrooge was afraid he'd be remembered as stingy and hardhearted.

- 6. It was a wonder Fred didn't shake his arm off!**
 - a. Fred was so surprised and pleased that he couldn't stop shaking his Uncle Scrooge's hand.
 - b. Still angry about Scrooge's grumpiness, Fred gave his uncle a hard shake.

NAME _____ DATE _____

First complete each sentence with words from the box. Then number the events to show which happened first, second, and so on.

pudding	prisons	married	remember	closet
business	office	caroler	Ghost of Christmas Present	
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come			Ghost of Christmas Past	

- _____ 1. Scrooge checked to see that nobody was in the _____ .
- _____ 2. Bob promised to be in the _____ early the next morning.
- _____ 3. After dinner Mrs. Cratchit brought out the Christmas _____ .
- _____ 4. Scrooge said that Marley was always a good man of _____ .
- _____ 5. Scrooge asked Fred why he got _____ .
- _____ 6. The _____ was a jolly giant in a fur-trimmed green robe.
- _____ 7. Scrooge said he helped to support workhouses and _____ .
- _____ 8. The _____ looked like a child-sized old man.
- _____ 9. Scrooge promised to _____ the lessons taught by the Spirits.
- _____ 10. The _____ wore a hooded black gown.
- _____ 11. To chase the _____ away, Scrooge struck the door with a ruler.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer the question or correctly complete each statement.

- 1. On what day did Marley die seven years ago?**
 - a. on Christmas day
 - b. on New Year's Eve
 - c. on Christmas Eve
 - d. on a Sunday night

- 2. Before leaving the office, Bob's last task was to**
 - a. turn off the air conditioner.
 - b. sweep the floor.
 - c. fill in his timesheet.
 - d. snuff out the candle.

- 3. Both Scrooge and his suite of rooms were**
 - a. old, dreary, and chilly.
 - b. smart, stylish, and new.
 - c. smelly and filthy.
 - d. warm and inviting.

- 4. What did Marley regret most about his life?**
 - a. that he hadn't earned enough money
 - b. that Scrooge had been his partner
 - c. that he had been blind to the needs of others
 - d. that he hadn't taken better vacations

- 5. How was Scrooge's nephew like Fan, his mother?**
 - a. Both lived to a ripe old age.
 - b. Both were interested in Scrooge's money.
 - c. Both were abused by Scrooge.
 - d. Both were kind and loving to Scrooge.

- 6. Throughout the story the Cratchits represent**
 - a. families who live well in spite of hardships.
 - b. people who are too lazy to get better jobs.
 - c. people with little hope or confidence.
 - d. sad families who pretend to be happy.

- 7. What sad event would happen if the future didn't change?**
 - a. Bob Cratchit would lose his job.
 - b. Christmas would be canceled.
 - c. Tiny Tim would soon die.
 - d. Scrooge would become young again.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answer each question in your own words. Write in complete sentences.

1. Did Bob Cratchit have an important job at the counting house? What was his title? Was his work space pleasant? What kind of work did he do?

2. The author uses *temperature* to set the mood of the story. Explain how the weather and one of the characters are described in terms of temperature.

3. Why does Scrooge think that Christmas is “ridiculous”? Explain at least two of his reasons.

4. Explain how Marley “forged his own chain, link by link and yard by yard.”

5. Compare Scrooge and Fezziwig as employers.

6. Which Spirit carried something in his hand? What was uncommon about this common object?

7. Describe two of Scrooge’s good deeds at the end of the story.

Choose one “extra credit” project from each column. Complete the short-term project on the back of this sheet. To complete the second project, follow your teacher’s instructions.

SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

1. Write brief captions for any four illustrations in the book.
2. Draw a picture of your favorite character. Be sure the clothing and hairstyles are appropriate to the times.
3. Write a diary entry for one of the main characters. Describe, from that character’s point of view, an important event from the novel.
4. Write a short paragraph explaining why you think the author chose to write about the particular time and place of the novel’s setting.
5. Draw a simple map, showing various locations mentioned in the novel.
6. Choose any page from the novel. Rewrite all the dialogue.
7. Playing the role of a newspaper reporter, write a brief article describing one of the events that occurs in the novel.

LONG-TERM PROJECTS

1. Use a reference book to find a song that was popular at the time this story takes place. Read or sing it to the class.
2. Write a description of the daily life of ordinary people at the time this story was written. Use library resources to find information.
3. Make a diorama depicting one of the important scenes in the story.
4. Ask a librarian to help you find a recipe for a dish that was popular at the time depicted in the story. Make it for the class.
5. Make a chart showing “then and now” comparisons between the story’s location and people at the time the novel is set and as it is today.
6. Use a cassette recorder to make an audiotape of any two chapters of the novel.

(TITLE OF NOVEL)

NAME _____

DATE _____

Five elements make up a plot: *characters, setting, conflict, climax, and conclusion*. Review the Glossary definition of each element. Then answer the questions about the novel you just read.

1. What is the **setting** (time and place) of the novel?

2. What **conflict** or **conflicts** do the main characters face?

3. Explain the **climax** of these conflicts (how they are resolved).

4. Is the outcome of the **plot** surprising? Why or why not?

5. Does the novel focus mostly on **character, plot, or setting**?
Explain your answer.

6. What might have been a *different* way for the conflicts to be resolved?
Think of some events that would have changed the outcome of the plot.
Write your new ending here.

(TITLE OF NOVEL) _____

NAME _____

DATE _____

Review the Glossary definition of *theme*. Then study the literary themes listed in the box.

bravery	loyalty	revenge	revolution	nature	hope
guilt	love	war	repentance	courage	friendship
madness	science	injustice	greed	regret	youth

Authors often want to deliver a message about their themes. This message, usually a deeply held belief, is expressed in the story.

Think about the novel you just read. What theme or themes can you recognize? What was the main idea? What point was the author trying to make about that theme? What message was delivered?

Choose two or three themes from the box, or write your own. Then write a sentence explaining the author’s belief about that theme. (This kind of sentence is called a *thematic statement*.)

EXAMPLE: *Romeo and Juliet*, by William Shakespeare

Theme: hatred

Thematic statement: Hatred between families can have tragic consequences for innocent individuals.

Theme 1: _____

Thematic statement: _____

Theme 2: _____

Thematic statement: _____

Theme 3: _____

Thematic statement: _____

CHARACTER STUDY: _____

(TITLE OF NOVEL)

NAME _____ DATE _____

Review the Glossary definition of *character*. Then name two important characters from the novel you just read. Write a brief description of each.

1. **Character:** _____
Description: _____

2. **Character:** _____
Description: _____

3. Which character did you find most interesting? _____
Explain why. _____

4. Describe the main conflict this character faces.

5. How is this conflict finally resolved?

6. Does the plot outcome make the character happy? _____
Explain how. _____

7. Write three lines of dialogue or description from the novel that helped you understand this character.

8. On the back of this sheet, write a sentence telling how you and the character are **alike**. Then write another sentence telling how the two of you are **different**.

VOCABULARY STUDY: _____

(TITLE OF NOVEL)

NAME _____ DATE _____

Look back through the novel you just read. Find ten words that were new to you. First, list the words on the lines below. Then check a dictionary if you're not sure what each word means. Finally, use each word in a sentence of your own.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

(TITLE OF NOVEL) _____

NAME _____

DATE _____

1. Review the Glossary definition of **conflict**. Then describe one example of a conflict in this novel.

2. Review the Glossary definition of **imagery**. Then give two examples of the author's artful use of figurative language.

3. Select your favorite short **passage** from the novel. Write it on the lines.

4. Describe the **setting** of the novel. When and where does the story take place?

5. Review the Glossary definition of **motive**. Explain the motive, or driving force, behind the main character's actions.

6. Review the Glossary definition of **quotation**. Select a memorable quotation from the novel and write it on the lines.

7. Think about a major event in the story. What was the main character's **point of view** about that event? Explain how the author revealed that character's point of view.

NAME _____ DATE _____

Imagine you are a book reviewer for a newspaper. Your job is to describe the novel you just read for your readers. Before you write your review—which will contain both fact and opinion—you must take notes. Use this form to record the information you will use in your article.

BOOK TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

1. What was the *author's purpose* in writing this book? (Examples: to amuse, terrify, inform, protest, inspire, etc.) Name more than one purpose, if appropriate.

2. What *type* of novel is this? (Examples: adventure, fantasy, comedy, tragedy, mystery, action, drama, etc.) Name more than one type, if appropriate.

3. Describe the *main character* in two or three sentences. Use meaningful details.

4. Describe two or three *supporting characters*. Explain each character's relationship to the main character.

5. Write one or two sentences from the novel as examples of powerful *description*. (Hint: Look for vivid sights, sounds, smells, or feelings.)

(TITLE OF NOVEL)

NAME _____

DATE _____

6. Write one or two lines from the book as examples of memorable *dialogue*.

7. Summarize the *plot* of the book in one brief paragraph. (Hint: Name a key event at the beginning, middle, and end.)

8. Find your favorite *illustration* in the book. As you describe it, explain how this drawing works as an aid to the reader's imagination.

9. State your opinion of the book's *title*. Does the title give a good clue as to what the story is about? Why or why not? Suggest a different title that would have worked as well.

10. State two reasons why you **would** or **would not** recommend this novel to your readers.



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