# **Intro to American & British Lit: Reading Responses**

Good writing has good ideas and good thinking. It is clear, precise, and concise. Make your answers reflect these qualities.

Do NOT summarize the story or include long quotes. I know the story well. Instead, react and respond to ideas in the story. Why are they important or interesting or worth thinking about? How do the ideas in the story connect to your life and experienceWhat questions do you have? (Not “what questions might impress the teacher?”

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| Chinese Name | 徐靖 | | | Student ID # | 2200012917 |
| Pinyin name | Jing Xu | | | Section # | 1 |
| English name (optional) |  | | | Date | 2024/7/17 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 12h(in total) |
| A Christmas Carol | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 3 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 3 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | | |
| **Veneration** : Deep respect or reverence, often for something considered sacred or holy.  **extremity** : a condition of severe need or difficulty  **brazier** : A portable container for holding burning coals or wood, used for outdoor heating or cooking.  **impenetrable** : incapable of being penetrated or pierced  **Humbug** : Deception or nonsense.  **marrow** : the soft, fatty, vascular substance in the hollow interior of bones; also, figuratively, the essence or most important part of something.  **ponderous** : heavy or bulky in a way that makes movement or handling difficult  **forbearance** : patience or restraint in the face of provocation or difficulty  **Incoherent** : Lacking a clear and consistent pattern or structure; not logically organized.  **reclamation** : the act of claiming something back or the process of restoring something to a former state.  **Mansion** : A large, impressive house.  **veriest** : absolute, used to emphasize the degree of something  **Negus** : A drink made of wine, sugar, spices, and warm water, often mixed with lemon or orange juice.  **pommel** : to strike or beat with repeated blows, especially with the fists or a blunt instrument.  **capacious** : having a large capacity; spacious or roomy.  **pulpy** : resembling or containing pulp; soft and moist.  **officious** : excessively eager to serve or assist.  **Ubiquitous** : Present everywhere or in several places simultaneously.  **loophole** : a narrow opening, especially one for firing a gun or peering through, in a wall or fortification.  **execrable** : extremely bad or unpleasant  **Prostrate** : Lying flat, especially as a sign of submission or exhaustion**.** | | | **Humbug** : nonsense or deception  **Residuary** : remaining after death  **Facetious** : joking in a light-hearted way  **Poulterers** : sellers of poultry  **broadwise** : wide direction  **tights** : close-fitting leg coverings  **abode** : place of residence  **preposterous** : unreasonable  **Glorious** : extremely beautiful  **Apoplectic** : relating to excessive fatness  **barnacle** : marine organism that attaches to surfaces  **Bustle** : lively commotion  **mouldy** : old  **Excrescence** : abnormal growth  **Frowsy** : dirty and untidy  **reconciled** : made peace with"  **Replete** : filled to the full  **Laocoön** : entangled in struggle  **Blithe** : cheerful  **Alms** : charitable donations | | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. Regarding the question of whether ghosts are fantasies, I feel that I didn't explain all of my thoughts well in class. When I was asked if Scrooge's changes were believable, my classmates pointed out that ghosts are obviously unbelievable, so I would associate it with the author's intention and design, even if the novel doesn't read like that. (×The idea has some basis, first of all, this design is very reasonable. I think when Scrooge is alone, it's easy for him to think of what he has done, what he is now, and how he will do it in the future. And I believe that no matter how mean a person is, there will still be thoughts of kindness, Being stingy does not mean not understanding kindness. As a capable businessman, Scrooge should be aware of the consequences of being stingy (even if it may be related to heaven and hell) On the other hand, from the content of the article, all the story experiences are based on Scrooge's memories, and Scrooge's changes are more like his thoughts and ideas. 2. One point of discussion that I feel is precisely the question given in class. When it comes to whether people should help others or only care about themselves, I almost immediately think of a sentence that is quite influential in the history of Chinese philosophy: If poor, one should focus on oneself; if successful, one should also benefit the world. This is similar to what novels want to express, but there are also differences | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. I think I may not understand Scrooge's failed love. As a boy, I may not understand why Scrooge's pursuit of wealth leads to "no longer pure relationship". In addition, Scrooge is obviously very excited in this part. I still don't think Scrooge took the initiative to do it. 2. I realize that the revelation given to Scrooge by the third ghost seems to be that if he continues to be stingy, he may end up alone (losing the happiness that Bob has when growing old and dying), so at the beginning, showing the indifference of the merchants to the death of their companions and the theft of the deceased's property, is the intention just to scare Scrooge? This does not seem to be a very convincing threat, or is there a purpose that I don't understand? 3. *"They are Man's,' said the spirit, looking down upon them. 'And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is gnoranceThis girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow l see that writen which is Doom, unless the writing be erased."*   Is this foreshadowing never to appear later, or I missed it, or it only appears here to tell Scrooge how to change himself? I don't understand here. | | | | | |
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