**A Christmas Carol:**

**Scrooge and Marley**

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From A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

**Act I Vocabulary** - Define the following words. Use the words in a sentence and provide the page number of its location in the drama.

1. Implored –
2. Morose –
3. Destitute –
4. Void –
5. Conveyed –
6. Benevolence –

**Background Information – page 663**

1. Where and when does the story take place?
2. Explain how the different social classes lived.
3. Who wrote the novel – **A Christmas Carol**? Who adapted the novel to play form?

**Class Notes –**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a time of tremendous economic and social change in England. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reigned from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Her name is the reason the time period is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The literature of this period reflects these changes and is often characterized by its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ impulses and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ messages.
3. Charles Dickens was born in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and died \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. He was considered one of the greatest writers because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Dickens is known for his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on institutions and his commentary on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. He presented his attacks in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or at least an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ way.

Union workhouses:

1. In Victorian England many people who were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_ or sick lived in the workhouses.
2. Workers woke up at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_am and bedtime was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_pm.
3. Workers spent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hours doing physical labor. This labor included \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Breakfast consisted of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of bread; dinner was a piece of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; supper was a piece of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Poor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Amendment of \_\_\_\_\_\_: disqualified the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who lived in their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from receiving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; the law required anyone seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needed to work in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; changes were intended to discourage the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relief.

**Act 1 – pages 665-691**

**Scene 1 – pages 665-667**

1. Elements of the Exposition include setting. Explain the setting of this drama.
2. What do you believe the purpose is for reading this play?
3. Who is Marley? What are his feelings towards Scrooge? What choice words tell the reader this?
4. What does the repetition of the word “sole” say about Marley?
5. Where was Scrooge on the day of Marley’s funeral?
6. What reason does Marley give for Scrooge not taking his name off the window?
7. How does the weather contribute to the **mood** of the play?
8. What could the mood **foreshadow**?

**Scene 2 – pages 667-675**

1. Compare and contrast the atmosphere outside and inside Scrooge’s office.
2. Who is Bob Cratchit?
3. Define Humbug. Use **context clues**.
4. What is Scrooge’s attitude towards Christmas? Explain your answer.
5. What is the nephew’s attitude toward Christmas? Explain your answer.
6. What does the nephew extend to Scrooge?
7. How does the exchange between Scrooge and his nephew show the contrast between the two characters?
8. How would you have responded to Scrooge if he had insulted you and your family?
9. What would you say to Bob Cratchit as you left?
10. What does the portly man ask of Scrooge?
11. What are Scrooge’s recommendations?
12. Why does Scrooge think the workhouses are adequate?
13. Identify and write one line of what Scrooge thinks about the poor.
14. What do you think Cratchit gives the portly man? What does this tell the reader about Cratchit’s character?
15. What day does Cratchit take off?
16. As Scrooge walks home identify the details that contrast Scrooge with the rest of the scene.
17. Why might the author want Scrooge to appear comical on page 675?
18. The **Exposition** consists of the **setting, characters and conflict**. What is the main **conflict** of the drama thus far? Briefly describe the main **characters** introduced thus far in the drama.

**Scene 3 – pages 676-680**

1. What does Scrooge see in the door knocker?
2. What is Marley dragging?
3. How are those objects related to Scrooge’s life?
4. What reason does Scrooge give for not being in Marley’s ghost?
5. What do the objects **symbolize** for Marley? Scrooge?
6. Based on the dialogue on page 677, what is Scrooge’s attitude toward Marley’s ghost?
7. What is your purpose for reading more of the drama?
8. Why does Marley visit Scrooge?
9. What does Marley mean by saying, “I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard”?
10. Why is Scrooge so frightened of the chains?
11. What might be Scrooge’s fate if he doesn’t change the way he lives his life?

**Scene 4 – pages 680-682**

1. What information does Marley give the audience at the opening of scene 4?
2. What time does Scrooge wake up? Why is he confused?
3. Describe the Spirit called **Past**.
4. How does Scrooge treat the ghost? Identify some words that convey this attitude.
5. What does the ghost ask Scrooge to do with him?

**Scene 5 – pages 683 – 691**

1. Describe the setting at the beginning of scene 5.
2. Why does Scrooge’s lip tremble?
3. Why might Scrooge want to see all the places at once?
4. Who is the solitary boy left alone at Christmas?
5. What line on page 684 reveals that a change is taking place in Scrooge?
6. Who comes to get Scrooge from his boyhood boarding school? What seems odd about Scrooge’s family?
7. Where is Fan now? Who is her child?
8. Explain the contrast between the feelings he had for Fan and the way he treats his nephew.
9. Who is Fezziwig?
10. How did Fezziwig treat his workers? How does that contrast with the way Scrooge treats Cratchit?
11. Identify words on page 688 that allow the reader to see how much Scrooge admired Fezziwig.
12. What do you think Scrooge would like to tell Cratchit at the moment?
13. What does the woman tell Scrooge about himself?
14. According to her, how has the young Scrooge changed?
15. Why is the present-day Scrooge angry at himself?
16. **Summarize** Scrooge’s past briefly.
17. How can the reader tell that Scrooge’s attitude is changing?

**Act II Vocabulary** - Define the following words. Use the words in a sentence and provide the page number of its location in the drama.

1. Astonish –
2. Compulsion –
3. Severe –
4. Meager –
5. Audible –

**Act II – pages 697-727**

**Scene 1 – pages 697-699**

1. In the stage directions what sounds are used to establish the **mood** and that this is a scary scene?
2. How does Marley plan to surprise Marley?
3. Hypothesize who you expect the second ghost to be. Explain your reasoning.
4. What is the purpose of the stage directions on page 698?
5. What do the 18,000 brothers represent (reminder the story was written in the 1800’s)?**.**

**Scene 2 – pages 700-701**

1. How do the men explain their polite behavior?
2. What is the Ghost trying to show Scrooge?
3. According to the Ghost, who needs kindness the most?
4. Why has the playwright included carolers in the drama?

**Scene 3 – pages 701-707**

1. Where does the Ghost of Christmas Present take Scrooge at the beginning of scene 3? Has Scrooge ever been there?
2. What does Scrooge consider foolish?
3. How does Mrs. Cratchit’s use of language affect your reading rate?
4. Why does Martha hide?
5. Why is this scene important for Scrooge to see?
6. What is wrong with Tiny Tim?
7. What does Scrooge ask the Ghost? What is the Ghost’s reply?
8. Who does Bob toast?
9. Compare and contrast Bob and Mrs.Cratchit’s views on Scrooge. Use Venn diagram.
10. What do the song and the subject add to the **mood**?
11. In this scene, what does Scrooge observe the Cratchit’s doing?

**Scene 4 – pages 707-719**

1. Why is Scrooge amazed?
2. Where does the Ghost take Scrooge next? What are the people laughing about?

1. What do you believe is the consequence for Scrooge not eating with his nephew?
2. Who does Fred see when he looks at Scrooge?
3. Who does Fred toast?
4. Why is The Ghost of Christmas Present not growing old?
5. Why does the present spirit constantly refer to the prisons and workhouses?
6. What warning does the Ghost of Christmas Present give Scrooge?
7. Who appears to Scrooge after the Ghost of Christmas Present leaves?
8. Who are the business men talking about? What words tell the reader that it is this character?
9. Compare and Contrast the Ghost of Christmas Future and the Ghost of Christmas Present. Draw your own Venn diagram.
10. Why is Scrooge confused?
11. Give one reason why the businessmen may go to the funeral.
12. Whose possessions are several people stealing?
13. Who is buying the stolen goods?
14. What did the First Woman steal why Scrooge was lying in the bed, dead?
15. What was her justification for removing Scrooge’s shirt?
16. How did these people have access to Scrooge’s things?
17. Why do you think the Ghost of Christmas Future is silent?
18. Whose corpse does Scrooge see?
19. What has happened to Tiny Tim? What details provide this information?
20. How could Scrooge’s nephew help Bob Cratchit?

1. How does Bob Cratchit describe Tiny Tim?
2. Why is it important for Scrooge to know whether the visions are shadows of things that will happen or things that might happen?
3. What does Scrooge’s tombstone possibly **symbolize** to Scrooge?
4. How does Future communicate to Scrooge? How do these gestures generate tension for Scrooge?
5. What promises does Scrooge make?
6. What do you believe **symbolizes** the **climax** of the Drama?

**Scene 5 – pages 720-727**

1. Describe Scrooge’s mood in contrast to how it has been the entire play?
2. What does Scrooge instruct Adam to do?
3. **Speculate** over where Scrooge will go today?
4. Provide details in the **Declining/Falling** actions of how Scrooge is transforming?

1. What does Scrooge whisper to the portly man?
2. What does Scrooge lose when he approaches Fred’s door? What does he decide to do?
3. What is the **dramatic irony** in the ending?
4. What is the **resolution** of the Drama?

**Pg. 732 – Literary Criticism**