

KEY WORDS

Proleptic death, economical language, dehumanised, exposed, neglected, devalued, eternal damnation, allegorical

Scrooge Stave 4

THE FUTILITY OF VALUING FINANCES OVER PEOPLE

- Dickens uses **prolepsis** (hints at what will happen in the future) to create Scrooge to have a **proleptic death**.
- Dickens resents the ever-growing Victorian capitalist notion of business being central to society and particularly to an individual. Hence, he uses **economical language** around.
- Scrooge's death to highlight that Scrooge's focus on being **"a good man of business"** has caused his **solitary and sombre** death.

- Ironically businessmen use this economical language, they too not understanding the consequences of being infatuated with money: **"What has he done with his money?", "cheap funeral", "marketing the corpse"**. Mrs Dilber uses this too: **"to profit us when he was dead!"**.
- This is **ironic** as in Scrooge's life his money caused him to treat the **poor in a dehumanising way**, however in **his death he is dehumanised** by only referring to him in economic terms- his value as a human is lost to his value as an **emblem of money**.
- Mrs Dilber is metaphorically used to trivialise being enamoured (obsessed and love) with money. Scrooge's focus on materialism was **futile** as even his simple privacy of having **"Bed- curtains"** in his death was stripped of him as nobody cared for his existence.

HIS NEGLECTED DEATH

- The ghost reveals **"a bare, uncurtained bed"** on a **"ragged sheet"**. The **image of exposure** is highlighted through **"bare"** and **"uncurtained"** suggesting Scrooge **is exposed in his death, his money failing to protect him when he is no longer alive**.
- "ragged"** connotes neglect, this **exacerbated through his neglected grave** being **"overrun by grass and weeds"**. The image of neglect, paired with the image of death and decay, highlights how Scrooge in his death has been **devalued and forgotten**- his uncompassionate nature is physically reflected in his uncared-for grave
- "overrun"** presents the **"grass and weeds"** as having **more vitality and life than him**. This is a **mockery of his materialistic driven life** as he has now become even more insignificant than the decaying plants that surround his grave
- The **exclamative sentence** of it being **"a worthy place!"** is a form of **karmic retribution**- Scrooge's **frugal and miserly existence** has been justly punished.
- A Victorian reader would seek comfort in Scrooge's **justly punishment** due to their strong religious beliefs. The idea of **eternal damnation and judgment from God** was one of the most fearful ideas that **pervaded society**. As Scrooge gets justly punishment it would reinforce the warning that being full of **covetousness** (desire for wealth) will lead to eternal damnation from God

COMPARISON

Scrooge's reaction to this ghost compared to the ghost of Christmas past or Marley is instrumental in marking his transmogrification. He dismissed and was ignorant to the first two ghosts, but his receptive dread is key in showing his immense change.

It is important to think about the symbolism of Scrooge's grave and include the reasons he has to get this point. Using small references from earlier in the text is helpful to do this as you're showing the examiner WHY Scrooge has been subject to this fate- the WHY is a massive part of what makes up your marks in literature.

TOP TIP



HIS DESPERATION FOR REDEMPTION

- Scrooge understands that his **dire and bleak future is imminent**, as well as the bleak future that the Cratchits will be subject too if he does not transform.
- He is despaired at the idea he is **"past all hope"** so commands **"hear me! I am not the man I was"**. The **imperative phrase "hear me!"** shows Scrooge's desperation to be allowed a chance at **redemption and salvation**. The **exclamative sentence** compounds this desperation as he is shouting and pleading the ghost.
- Scrooge's realisation marks the **climax of the allegorical novella** as he says **"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me"**.
- The **personal pronoun "I"** reinforces him taking personal responsibility for his injurious actions.
- The concept of **"three"** could be a biblical allusion to the three different forms of God within the **holy trinity: the father, the son and the holy spirit**. This could emphasise how the three ghosts almost acted as **incarnations of God** himself- relaying a moral and religious message that penetrated deeply within Scrooge.

TOPIC SENTENCES

Scrooge's proleptic death is littered with economical language. This is used to trivialise the infatuation with money and highlight the futility of leading a life full of avarice and covetousness- Scrooge was the epitome of this.

Scrooge's neglected and abandoned death is inextricably linked with his neglect and abandonment of people in need in society. His uncared-for grave is an emblematic of his uncompassionate nature has left him devalued and forgotten among the decaying plants.

Scrooge's desperation for redemption is catalysed through his understanding that his dire and bleak future is imminent. He pleads for redemption and salvation as he understands that he needs to develop his social conscience and become a philanthropic member of society.