

KEY WORDS

Vulnerable, exposed emotionally, rejection of redemption, idolisation of money, repression of emotions, benevolence, innocence, pathos

Scrooge Stave 2

THE FOGGY WEATHER

- **"still very foggy and extremely cold"** the **pathetic fallacy foreshadows** how Scrooge will remain oblivious and ignorant- as 'fog' prevents clear vision, this is akin to how Scrooge prevents himself from embarking on a pathway of redemption.
- **"fog"** can also represent **institutionalised oppression** (the government and people in charge controlling the people), Dickens uses this to **subtly indict** how the oppression is in every **crevice in London**- although this is not the focus of the plot at this point, it is always lurking.
- Dickens frequently uses **this weather to be symbolic of the change within Scrooge**. The diminishing **"darkness and the mist had vanished with it"** symbolises how with each ghost, Scrooge is gaining clarity, **diminishing his own mental darkness**, on how to be the moral individual- he is unlocking the hopeful potential the reader initially encounters with him being an **"oyster"**.

COMPARISON

Dickens provides the reader a subtle insight to why Scrooge rejects any form of redemption and emotional personal connect. When the ghost talks about Fran and asks how many children she had, Scrooge replies "one child" in a sorrowful manner. This may be indicative of how Scrooge rejects these close personal relationships because of his deep emotional fragile state.

HIS REJECTION OF REDEMPTION

- The ghost of Christmas past is full of the **"bright clear jet of light"**. This creates an iridescent **image** with **"light"** and **"bright"**, this suggestive of how the ghost is trying to brighten Scrooge's life through **revelation (revealing his past) and reminiscence (reflecting on his past)**.
- The diction **"clear"** reinforces this **clarity of revelation** the ghost aims to bring Scrooge, through **"light"**ing up his past an allowing him to reminisce and reflect on his past that has undeniably contributed to his present.
- Scrooge **resists his chance of redemption**, as the light symbolises revelation and reminiscence, Scrooge wants to **exterminate** this due him unable to confront his pain from the past: **"he seized the extinguisher-cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head"**.
- **'cap'** connotes **restriction**, symbolic of how Scrooge desperately wants to restrict and **repress** the memories of his past- he envies his free young spirit and regrets his idolisation of money and **covetousness (desire for wealth)**.
- The aggressive verb **"pressed"**, paired with the rapid adverb of **"sudden"**, explores how **Scrooge is engulfed with deeply repressed emotions**, he acts out irrationally due to sheer panic that he will have to face these stifled memories of the past.
- As he is unsuccessful in restricting the ghosts light, this mirrors how Scrooge will be **unsuccessful in obstructing his redemption**.



NOSTALGIA

- A **buoyant and infectious atmosphere** is presented of Fezziwig's party, compounding Scrooge's nostalgia as "In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business".
- The repetition of "in came" followed by vivid descriptions of an abundance of people arriving, creates an atmosphere of entertaining chaos, reminding the reader that there was a time Scrooge immersed himself into social events- most importantly into society itself.
- He is presented as having a warm and **welcoming ambience** around him, as when watching Fezziwig's party unfold "His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self." This is a direct juxtaposition to his former cold presentation where the **"cold had little influence"**.

COMPARISON

Dickens uses each stave to further Scrooge's development. In stave 1 he is presented as a misanthropic miser, however in Stave 2, the reader gets an insight to why Scrooge wilfully ostracises himself and through understanding his past, it makes the reader feel pathos for Scrooge.

EVOKING PATHOS

- Stave 2 is the first insight the reader gets to a **compassionate and benevolent** Scrooge: "I was bred in this place. I was a boy here!". The **exclamative sentence** provides the reader with the first insight to his raw emotions- his unexpected immersion into his past means that Scrooge is **not consciously repressing his emotions, he is momentarily liberated**.
- A contemporary readership would see "bred" as having animalistic connotations, this **intensifying their sense of pathos** for Scrooge as it could be an allusion for the animalistic and barbaric treatment he suffered as a child in the late 1700s.
- Dickens' empathy for **child exploitation and neglect is a typical trope** within his work.
- The description of Scrooge in his childhood hold **parallel language** to his description in stave 1. He is described as "A solitary child, neglected by his friends" which is reminiscent of his previous description of "solitary as an oyster".
- The repeatedly use adjective of "solitary" highlights how Scrooge's neglected and 'solitary' state as a **defenceless** child has directly caused his lonesome and 'solitary' adult existence- the ghost even pities his younger self and makes Scrooge recognise how he was an extremely "lonely boy".
- "Home, little Fan?" returned the boy"- motif of innocent children permeates Dickens' work, he uses both Scrooge's innocence as a child, paired with his sisters tragic death, to evoke **pathos** but to also emphasise the **injustices that pervaded Victorian society- particularly the victimisation of children**.
- Dickens offers an alternative twist on **his social commentary**- he is **scathing** of the entitled upper class yet showing how they have the emotions and capabilities to contribute to **positive social reform**.



DISMANTLED MARRIAGE

- Scrooge's younger self is described as "he signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye". As **avarice is one of the 7 deadly sins**, condemned in a highly religious Victorian society, **his embodiment** of 7 deadly sins foreshadows that his disintegration of his marriage is **synonymous with his greed**.
- Belle, his ex-wife, eyes are described as "sparkled in the light". Interestingly, Dickens uses the **motif of light**, a like to the ghost of past, present and Fred, to reinforce that Scrooge has blindly ignored the beauty and vitality of others and life
- Scrooge's **materialistic pursuit** has left him seeking comfort in the "cheap...darkness" as he cannot face how much vitality and light he has let out of his life
- Poignantly, the reason for the breakdown of his marriage was that a "golden" idol has "displaced" Belle. As **'golden'** connotes valuable and precious, this is used ironically to indict how Scrooge, a **microcosm of the upper class**, views materialistic items as valuable and precious over loved ones and other members of society

TOPIC SENTENCES

Dickens utilises pathetic fallacy to resemble the stagnancy and progression of Scrooge's character. He frequently uses 'fog' to symbolise institutionalised oppression in conjunction with Scrooge's obstruction to his own redemption

Scrooge resists his chance of redemption, as the light of the ghost of the past symbolises revelation and reminiscence, Scrooge wants to exterminate this due him unable to confront his pain from the past.

Dickens evokes a strong sense of pathos from the reader in act 2; he casts light upon the reasons that Scrooge leads such a 'solitary' existence. Thus, he uses his social commentary to show how misanthropic misers do have the emotional capabilities to change and contribute to social reform.

Dickens uses Scrooge, and his broken relationships, as a cautionary tale in regards to the detrimental effects of materialistic pursuit- the pursuit of money and materialistic items is synonymous with the break down of relationships.

