

KEY WORDS

magnanimous (generous), model Christian, sincere, optimistic, jovial

Fred

PRESENTATION THROUGH LIGHT

- The motif of light, presented through the ghost of past, present and Belle, is similarly used with Fred as he is described as **"all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled"**.
- "glow"** and **"sparkled"** demonstrate this motif. As light frequently **symbolises hope and enlightenment throughout the novella**, this could show how Fred provides **hope for Scrooge's redemption**– his **magnanimous nature** provides hope that Scrooge will emulate this.
- Alternatively, alike to the ghosts and Belle, the motif of light suggests that **Fred catalyses Scrooge's enlightenment**. Scrooge's interactions with the ghosts makes him realise his **immoral miserly** interactions with people such as Bob and Fred. Thus, Fred's interaction with Scrooge is pivotal in Scrooge understanding his wrong doings.
- The motif of light is a direct juxtaposition with the semantic field of darkness and cold surrounding Scrooge in stave 1: **"darkness is cheap and Scrooge liked it"**, **"frosty rime"** and **"he iced in his office"**.
- This highlights how Scrooge thrived in being **misanthropic and cold-hearted**, hence he "liked" the bitter darkness as this meant he could be hidden and forgotten.

FOIL TO SCROOGE

- Foil= used to highlight another characters good/ bad qualities.**
- Fred is foil to Scrooge as he emphasises Scrooge's **miserly and inconsiderate qualities**. However, Fred is benevolent and magnanimous (generous)– he is full of **vitality** and life compared to his **cantankerous** (bad-tempered) uncle.
- His **optimistic and jovial attitude** is shown through his **abundance of exclamative sentences**: **"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!"**.
- The comma before **"uncle"** creates a pause, showing Fred's **sincerity** towards Scrooge as he emphasises their **familial bond**. The **exclamative sentences** compound this as he is both overjoyed at this festive time, and thrilled to be in the presence of a **beloved family member**.
- This **starkly contrasts his misanthropic uncle** who calls people who are festive an **"idiot"** and **belligerently (aggressively)** suggests they should be **"buried with a stake of holly through his heart"**.
- Fred's **religious and jovial words** juxtapose Scrooge's pessimistic words surrounding death. Thus, Dickens constructs Fred to exacerbate how Scrooge's characteristics (**parsimonious, misanthropic, miserly and pessimistic**) are not desirable traits for society. Instead, individuals should be a like to Fred as this would lead to **social reform and a progressive society**.
- Jovial presentation: **"more blest in a laugh than Scrooge's nephew"**.
- Fred's elation is described **hyperbolically**, even in the way he laughs he is **"twisting his face into the most extravagant contortions"**. This again making him a foil to Scrooge who is **"squeezing, wrenching"**.
- As this connotes a struggle, it could suggest how Scrooge **struggles to assimilate into society** and be jovial alike to Fred.
- As Fred is **"blest in laugh"**, it alludes to how Fred's **energy is infectious** as God has blessed him with benevolence and joy. This **foreshadowing how his Fred's abundance of benevolence and compassion will eventually infect Scrooge**– stave 5 is an example of this when Scrooge embraces Fred at Christmas.



Dickens creates Fred as a character to be compared with Scrooge. If you get an extract on Fred, ensure you make direct comparisons with Scrooge's nature- this was intentional from Dickens. This would hit A01 (maintaining a critical style).

EPITOME OF A MORAL CITIZEN

- As Dickens **uses fiction to ignite social reform**– he creates Fred to be an **exemplary model of the perfect citizen**, compassionate, empathetic, and religious, to show the reader how social reform will be easier if everybody in society was more alike to Fred and less like Scrooge.
- His understanding and compassion is clear as he says about Scrooge: ***“his offences carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him.”*** Fred does not make it his business to condemn– he knows the **real condemnation will be in the afterlife**. Thus, he remains objective regarding Scrooge and leads with love.
- He feels **empathetic** towards Scrooge’s misery filled life he inflicts upon himself: ***“I am sorry for him; I couldn’t be angry with him if I tried”***. The lexis on ***“couldn’t be angry”*** reinforces how Fred is constructed as unable to be hateful and spiteful. He only knows how to **be caring and solicitous (caring)**– model example for society.
- At the end of the novel, Scrooge holds more resemblance to the characteristics of Fred than he did himself at the beginning.
- Fred’s presence allows the reader a character to **measure Scrooge’s redemption against**. As Fred is the **epitome of a moral citizen**, when Scrooge becomes alike to him at the end, this is confirmation that Scrooge has become societies **paradigm (model-example) of a moral member of society**.

TOPIC SENTENCES

Fred is foil to Scrooge as he emphasises Scrooge’s miserly and inconsiderate qualities. However, Fred is benevolent and magnanimous– he is full of vitality and life compared to his cantankerous uncle.

Dickens uses the motif of light within Fred’s character. The use of the motif of light, used also with the ghosts and Belle, suggests that Fred catalyses Scrooge’s enlightenment. Scrooge’s interactions with the ghosts and Fred makes him realise his immoral miserly interactions with society.

Fred’s presence allows the reader a character to measure Scrooge’s redemption against. As Fred is the epitome of a moral citizen, when Scrooge becomes alike to him at the end, this is confirmation that Scrooge has become societies paradigm (model-example) of a moral member of society.



TOP TIP Discussing ‘motif’ a high-level language technique, and comparing it with other characters would impress the examiner. It would be hitting A01 (Maintaining a critical response) and A02 (analysing language and how it is used by the writer to create meaning)