

## KEY WORDS

**Parsimonious (stingy), full of avarice, dehumanised, animalised, sempiternal punishment, egoism**

# Marley

## SCROOGE'S DENIAL

- Scrooge dismisses the idea of Marley being due to food poisoning as puts his vision of Marley as **"A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats"**– Scrooge is **vehemently opposed** to the interaction with the supernatural as this means he will be forced to change his **rigid and parochial** (narrow-minded) views on the world.
- Scrooge is horrified through the **gothic supernatural presentation** of Marley: **"Scrooge fell upon his knees, and clasped his hands before his face"**. Marley is portrayed as conforming to **the archetype of a ghost**, horrifying in appearance and pained in its suffering, to try eliciting a reaction from Scrooge to **catalyse a change**.
- Scrooge sees his worth **as an individual synonymous with his worth and value within business**. His ignorant capitalist mindset is shown when he can't understand Marley's suffering: **"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,"**.
- The comma after **'business'** creates a pause, emulating Scrooge's confusion as to why Marley is **suffering despite his immense financial and business contributions**. Momentarily, this evokes a sense of pity from the reader as they can see they Scrooge cannot see the world without looking at it through **a monetary lens**.

## IMPRISONED BY HIS SELFISHNESS

- Marley is symbolic of the **eternal consequences of the pursuit of materialism**– in his life on earth he shunned poverty, indulging in his **avarice** (greed), thus in his afterlife he experiences **spiritual poverty**.
- A chain symbolises **restriction and entrapment**. Through Marley **"dragging a heavy chain"**, his chain is a **conceit** (extended metaphor) for the restricting and eternal consequences of being **parsimonious** (stingy).
- The tiresome verb **"dragging"** **exacerbates that the eternal punishments** he is enduring as it appears he has been carrying these punishments for a long time– he is **sempiternally** (forever) bound to the punishments of his previous life.
- Marley is a **physical and metaphorical representation** for how if making money and materialism main purpose to your life, then it will be the main reason for your eternal suffering: **"The chain he drew was clasped about his middle."**– as it was **"clasped about his middle"** it shows entire being cannot escape this **sempiternal torture**.
- A **dehumanising and animalistic image** is painted of Marley as his chain **"was long, and wound about him like a tail"**. The simile **"like a tail"** implies that his **egoism and selfishness** has lead to his **animalistic treatment** in hell– his disregards for others in his life, has lead to him being disregarded as an animal in his after life.
- "I wear the chain I forged in life...I made it link by link"** as chains have are made of links, which are all interconnecting, this is alike to how Marley is warning Scrooge that his **infatuation with money and abandonment of compassion** for others, is **directly connected to his anguish**.



**Marley's infatuation with money, resembling Scrooge's, and abandonment of compassion of others could also be a subtle criticism of Malthusian views. The infatuation with the economy over people was a key part of the Malthusian logic. This could show a link between text and context– A03**

## DICKEN'S AS A SOCIAL COMMENTATOR

- Dickens uses **conventional gothic elements of the supernatural** within this novel as **Victorian Gothic literature was prevalent** at the time. He uses it to explore morality in a way intertwined with the supernatural, the uncanny and the realm of endless possibilities.
- Dickens using **fictional characters** such as Marley and Scrooge **to indict social ills**– most significantly the **misanthropic nature of the upper class**.
- Interestingly, Dickens uses conventional gothic elements, paired with humour and fiction, to carry his **allegorical tale** (story with a hidden deeper message). This is to perhaps make his key criticisms of society seem simple and **easy to comprehend**.
- Through using fictional gothic characters to carry his **indictment about the misers that pervaded the upper class**, it allows the reader to immerse themselves in a fictional world filled with the supernatural, whilst also be scornful of the characters immoral traits.
- Dickens uses Marley as **his first mouthpiece** to explore the need for a **collective social conscience**. Marley tells Scrooge ***"Mankind was my business"***.
- Dickens uses Marley to explore the desperate need for the upper class to realise their **neglection of the poor is exacerbating poverty, squalor, and mistreatment**.

## COMPARISON

You could compare how Dicken's uses the different ghosts as his mouthpiece and how they convey different messages. Marley may show the need for collective social conscience whilst the ghost of Christmas present shows the consequences of the abandonment of this.



## TOPIC SENTENCES

Marley is symbolic of the **eternal consequences of the pursuit of materialism**– in his life on earth he shunned poverty, indulging in his avarice (greed), thus in his afterlife he experiences **spiritual poverty**.

Dickens utilises Marley as his mouthpiece to be scathing of the **pervasive social ills** of society and to challenge the upper class notion that materialism can replace genuine community.