

Theme Quotes & Analysis

Scrooge

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Selfishness/ Materialism	1	<u>"the cold within him froze his old features"</u>	The conceit (extended- metaphor) of the relentless cold holds parallels to Scrooge's distant and cold attitude- his internal apathy and detachment is so omnipotent , it alters his physical appearance.
	1	<u>"external heat and cold had little influence"</u>	He is successful in his ostracisation of himself as even elements of nature, typically uncontrollable, he has managed to isolate himself from.
	2	<u>A solitary child, neglected by his friends" parallel to "solitary as an oyster"</u>	The parallel language allows the reader to understand how Scrooge's selfish and 'solitary' existence in his adulthood is synonymous with his defenceless 'solitary' existence as a child.
	2	<u>a "golden" idol has "displaced" Belle</u>	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.
	3	<u>'ivy, turkey, geese, game, poultry, brown, meat, pigs, sausages, oysters...'</u>	The asyndetic list creates an image of abundance and excessive wealth . This could compound how Scrooge is in the financial position to afford these luxuries and yet takes them for granted. However, as these foods all "vanished instantly" it could allude to how these materialistic luxuries only provide an ephemeral (temporary) amount of joy .
	4	<u>What has he done with his money?," "cheap funeral", "marketing the corpse"</u>	Scrooge's infatuation with money and materialism leads to others using economical language around his death. 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 .
	4	<u>"overrun by grass and weeds"</u>	His neglected and abandoned death is a consequence of his selfishness. 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.

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Social injustice/ Poverty	1	<u>"What reason do you have to be merry? You're poor enough".</u>	Scrooge recognises that poverty causes misery. However, he continues to live in a state of ignorance , most significantly through neglecting others, without offering to alleviate this misery of poverty .
	1	<u>"Are there no prisons?...And the union workhouses?"</u>	His Malthusian views , paired with his use of rhetorical questions, highlights the sheer ignorance of the upper class towards poverty. Scrooge is unable to see the poor with any humanity , instead sees them as mere numbers contributing to the "surplus population" .
	2	<u>"still very foggy and extremely cold"</u>	"fog" can also represent institutionalised oppression (the government and people in charge controlling the people), Dickens uses this to subtly indict how the oppression and social injustice is in every crevice in London .
	3	<u>"tell me if Tiny Tim will live."</u>	Scrooge's use of imperatives, paired with the verb "cried" , highlights his catharsis (an emotional release) as he is so overcome with guilt due to his blatant disregard and ignorance to the plight of the destitute - this being personified through the Cratchits.
	3	<u>"The boy is ignorance. The girl is want."</u>	Ignorance and want are allegorical characters aim to highlight the unjustified abuse on innocent children as a result of poverty . It is significant that Ghost of present shows him this, as Dickens uses the ghost of present as his mouthpiece to criticise the socio-economic poverty that pervaded Victorian society .
	3	<u>They are "yellow", "scowling" and "wolfish"</u>	"yellow" could imply that children are physically sick and malnourished because of the neglect of society and the obliviousness of individuals to social injustice . This animalistic image highlights how poverty dehumanises individuals, stripping them of their humanity and reducing them to less than an animalistic state of being .
	4	<u>"His grave is described as a "a worthy place!"</u>	The exclamative sentence suggests the excitement at the idea that Scrooge is being justly punished for his frugal and miserly existence- especially his disregard for the poor.

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Supernatural	1	<u>"piercing, searching, biting cold"</u> (about the weather)	The personification of the weather makes the weather seem powerful; this could be an allusion to the forthcoming supernatural powers to come.
	2	<u>"he seized the extinguisher-cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head."</u>	Scrooge rejects the redemption the supernatural power of the ghost is trying to offer him. Scrooge wants to exterminate this bright light, symbolising revelation and hope , due him unable to confront his pain from the past. 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.
	3	<u>"Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit"</u>	Scrooge appears submissive to the ghost, open and welcoming the idea of his moral and spiritual awakening . He, for the first time, shows remorse and obedience - his resistance to the supernatural is diminishing and he is now willing to change.
	4	<u>"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me".</u>	Scrooges realisation marks the climax of the allegorical novella . 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.

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Kindness/ Family	2	<u><i>"His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self."</i></u>	<p>Scrooge has a warm and welcoming ambience surrounding him in stave 2. Fezziwig was presented alike to a family member to Scrooge hence his benevolent reaction when reminiscing. This is a direct juxtaposition to his former cold presentation where the <u><i>"cold had little influence"</i></u>.</p>
	5	<u><i>"I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's"</i></u>	<p>Scrooge becomes altruistic and benevolent- his acts of atonement towards the Cratchits are exemplary of this. His kindness towards the Cratchits is clear, with him treating them like to his new family as he takes a paternal role of being a <u><i>"second father"</i></u> to Tiny Tim.</p>

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Religion	1	<u>"squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner"</u>	The use of 7 negative adjectives mirrors how there are 7 deadly sins - these are called cardinal sins and were seen in the bible as the root of all evil. The parallels between Scrooge and the sins are used by Dickens to highlight how the rich, symbolised by Scrooge, are more sinful than the poor.
	2	<u>"he signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye"</u>	This description of Scrooge's younger self highlights how he favoured materialism over love. 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 .
	3	<u>"forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask".</u>	Shows respect and is receptive to the ghosts teaching. this has biblical undertones of asking for salvation and forgiveness from God- "forgive me father for I have sinned" . Scrooge appears to be understanding his need to be cleansed of sin - he uses the spirit, perhaps an incarnation of God, to be aided with this.
	4	<u>"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me".</u>	Scrooges realisation marks the climax of the allegorical novella . 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.
	5	<u>"I am as happy as an angel"</u>	The religious simile highlights how Scrooge feels that his redemption has led him back to the path of God and faith . He was previously described as a "sinner" , embodying the 7 deadly sins. Yet, his redemption has led to his restoration of religious morals- these being imperative to Victorian society.
	5	<u>"quite a baby" and "as merry as a schoolboy".</u>	The infantile imagery signifies his rebirth. The idea of rebirth is salient in Christianity . It is believed that a rebirth indicates that a person develops a strong personal and emotional connection with God . It also holds significance as Jesus Christ was reborn to provide salvation for mankind . This could perhaps suggest that Scrooge's rebirth will provide salvation and relief for others.
	5	<u>"He went to church, and walked about the street"</u>	The syntax (word order) of church being first highlights how he has now understood the importance of religious teachings and how it provides an integral moral foundation to an individual.

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Regret/ Redemption	3	<u>"Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit"</u>	Scrooge appears submissive to the ghost, open and welcoming the idea of his moral and spiritual awakening . He, for the first time, shows remorse and obedience . He shows how is open to have a chance or redemption and regrets his ignorance.
	3	<u>"If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population" (ghost repeating back to Scrooge). This resulting in Scrooge being "overcome with penitence and grief"</u>	The ghost emulates Scrooge's heartless Malthusian view . Scrooge feels intense remorse as he has seen the physical effects of his blissful ignorance towards the plight of the poor - Tiny Tim is microcosmic for the victimisation of poor children because of individuals like Scrooge seeing them as in inconvenience in society.
	4	<u>"hear me! I am not the man I was".</u>	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.
	5	<u>"I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy".</u>	"I am as a light as a feather" is the antithesis to his the simile in stave one of him being "as hard and sharp as a flint" . The juxtaposing similes highlights how Scrooge feels he has been liberated , now feeling "light" , from the burdens of carrying his once "own low temperature" .
	5	<u>"quite a baby" and "as merry as a schoolboy".</u>	As both a "baby" and "schoolboy" connote innocence and youth , Scrooge is showcasing how through him repenting for his sins , he has regained his youthful innocence and ability to see the world is an untainted light. As being a "baby" is the start of life, this signifies that Scrooge has been reborn as he has gone from an "old sinner" back to the most innocent form of human life- he has had the ultimate rebirth.

Marley

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Selfishness/ Materialism	1	<u>"The chain he drew was clasped about his middle"</u>	As it was "clasped about his middle" it shows entire being cannot escape this sempiternal torture . 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.
	1	<u>"I wear the chain I forged in life...I made it link by link"</u>	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 .
Social injustice/ Poverty	1	His chain <u>"was long and wound about him like a tail".</u>	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. Thus, due to the social injustices he contributed too, he is now having to lead a dehumanising and animal existence in his afterlife.
Supernatural	1	<u>"Scrooge fell upon his knees, and clasped his hands before his face"</u>	Scrooge is horrified through the gothic supernatural presentation of Marley. 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 .
Religion	4	<u>"dragging a heavy chain"</u>	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 . 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- God has made him subject to this eternal suffering in hell.
Regret/ Redemption	1	<u>"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," "Mankind was my business".</u>	Marley deeply regrets his decision to be a misanthropic miser. He tries to warn Scrooge, however 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.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Selfishness/ Materialism	2	<u>"bright clear jet of light"</u>	The ghost is trying to eradicate Scrooge's selfishness through illuminating his past.
Supernatural	2	<u>"It was a strange figure—like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man"</u>	The ghost is presented as paradoxical and conflicting , not conforming to the physical ideas of the human world. The juxtaposition of it being "like a child" and simultaneously "like an old man" is metaphorical for Scrooge. He appears physically alike to an "old man" as he is branded an "old sinner" , yet is vulnerable and isolated akin to how he was as a "child" .
	2	<u>"one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs"</u>	The ghosts can also be seen to be supernatural incarnations of Scrooge. its metamorphosis (physical transformation) and transmogrification (change in a surprising manner) could be symbolic of how Scrooge's transmogrification is imminent .
Religion	2	<u>"wore a tunic of the purest white"</u>	"purest white" creates a celestial image of heaven and purity from sin . As the ghost wears a "tunic" of this colour, it is suggestive that his aim is to resurface Scrooge's repressed memories and emotions in order to purify him from his previous sins . This would allow Scrooge at a chance of redemption to later enter heaven .
Regret/ Redemption	2	<u>"bright clear jet of light"</u>	"Light" creates an image of hope and brightness, this symbolises how the ghost's function is to brighten up Scrooge's life with his moral awakening . The ghost's function is to show Scrooge how hopeful and joyous life he could lead if he embarks on a pathway of redemption .
	2	<u>"could not hide the light"</u>	As the ghost's light is emblematic of hope , it foreshadows how Scrooge cannot escape his redemption. The ghost will help aid Scrooge to his moral and spiritual awakening and he cannot "hide" from this.

The Ghost of Christmas Present

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Social injustice/ poverty (This could also fit for selfishness/ materialism as Scrooge's Malthusian views are selfish)	3	<u>"glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn"</u>	Plenty's horn in Latin is known as 'cornucopia', symbolic of nourishment and abundance- he is showing Scrooge that there is an abundance of resources to be shared - no malnourishment or neglect should commence in a society that has plenty. This is a direct criticism of Malthusian views which has no regard for the poor and destitute .
	3	<u>"turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn" which formed "a kind of throne"</u>	Dickens directly uses the plethora of enticing of food as a criticism of the Malthusian idea that supplies are scarce, and the poor are the ones who are draining these resources.
	3	<u>"If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."</u>	Through the ghost emulating Scrooge's heartless Malthusian views , he is allowing the readership to reflect on the words that Scrooge had previously said and the detrimental impact this has had on others.
	3	<u>"The boy is ignorance. The girl is want."</u>	Ignorance and want are allegorical characters aim to highlight the unjustified abuse on innocent children as a result of poverty . It is significant that Ghost of present shows him this, as Dickens uses the ghost of present as his mouthpiece to criticise the socio-economic poverty that pervaded Victorian society .
	3	<u>They are "yellow", "scowling" and "wolfish"</u>	"yellow" could imply that children are physically sick and malnourished because of the neglect of society and the obliviousness of individuals to social injustice . This animalistic image highlights how poverty dehumanises individuals, stripping them of their humanity and reducing them to less than an animalistic state of being .

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Social injustice/ poverty	3	<u>"jolly Giant" who wears a "green robe" which was "bordered with fur".</u>	The ghost is not presented as an archetypal menacing ghost, instead has an likeness to Father Christmas. As Father Christmas is a symbol of festivity and giving- this is poignant as the ghost's function is to show Scrooge how there is enough of everything in abundance and giving is an important attribute to have in society.
Religion	3	<u>"kind, generous, hearty nature"</u>	The triple adjective could be seen to have biblical allusions to the holy trinity in which is three parts of God: the father, the son and the holy spirit . The three adjectives could be an allusion to how the ghost is there to bring Scrooge back to his religious moral foundations and guide him away from sin
	3	<u>"ivy"</u>	Biblically, <u>"ivy"</u> symbolises 'God's gift' , thus as there was ivy surrounding the ghost it compounds his God like portrayal - he could be seen as a recipient of God's message as he is trying to enlighten Scrooge morally, spiritually and religiously
	3	<u>"and who do their deeds of passion, pride, ill-will, hatred, envy, bigotry, and selfishness in our name"</u>	The ghost rejects Scrooge's accusation that spirits created sabbath closures (closing of key essential shops such as bakeries etc on Sundays because of religion). The asyndetic list highlights that mankind commit injurious and immoral acts yet try justifying it through religion

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Selfishness/ Materialism	4	<u>"overrun by grass and weeds"</u>	The ghost shows Scrooge the consequences of selfishness. This is compounded by showing Scrooge irreversibility and permanence of wasting time living a life full of misery. Scrooge's sardonic life has lead to him being neglected in his after life.
	4	<u>"It was a worthy place" (about his grave)</u>	Dickens highlights that the neglection of others in turn will cause your own neglection in your death . Scrooge's decaying and uncared for grave serves as a warning to the reader that neglection is cyclical and will cycle back round to punish you.
Social injustice/ Poverty		Could use any quote from selfishness as Scrooge's contribution to social injustice also meant his grave neglected and abandoned.	
Regret/ Redemption	4	<u>"outstretched hand" and "steady hand was pointed to the head."</u>	His lack of words and enigmatic depiction speeds up Scrooge's redemption. This is because the use of its "hand" repeatedly could be an allusion to the hand of time ; the ghost is warning Scrooge that he is losing time and is edging closer to his ironically "solitary" death- Scrooge longed for a "solitary" existence and now the ghost is solemnly showing him the repercussions of this selfish want.
	4	<u>"The kind hand trembled"</u>	As it is no longer "unmoved" this is suggestive that Scrooge's plead for redemption has altered the unstoppable nature of time . He is now given an opportunity to rectify his wrongdoings and cherish Christmas day again.
	4	<u>"I fear you more than any spectre I have seen."</u>	Scrooge's honesty, due to his dropping of his miserable unphased façade , highlights how he is unlearning how to repress his emotions , instead is being emotionally vulnerable and open.

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Supernatural	4	<u><i>"slowly, gravely, silently approached"</i></u>	The triple ominous adverb shows this menacing ambience filled with dread . This is exacerbated through the archetypal presentation of a menacing ghost - it is a faceless figure that is there to haunt Scrooge.
	4	<u><i>"shrouded in a deep black garment"</i></u>	This is reminiscent of the description of the grim reaper , a symbol of death as he was believed to collect people's souls . The likeness in description is suggestive that Scrooge's chances of redemption have vanished , and he is now going to be mercilessly taken to his hellish death.
	4	<u><i>"solemn dread"</i></u>	This supernatural dread is key in Scrooge's emancipation (freedom) as it allows Scrooge to fear the inevitable future he will face if he continues to be shrouded in his own internal darkness .
	4	<u><i>"Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him"</i></u>	His utter terror is so powerful it does not just evoke an emotional reaction from Scrooge, but a physical one. The alliteration "draws emphasis on the mysteriousness of the ghost, its faceless figure makes Scrooge lose all composure (this quote could also be used for regret).

Bob Cratchit

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Selfishness/ Materialism	3	<i><u>Mrs Cratchit “dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons,”</u></i>	The Cratchits are the antithesis of materialistic as they admirably make the best out of the little they have. The alliteration on <u>“twice-turned gown”</u> emphasises their poverty; Mrs Cratchit is not able to afford new clothes. The festivity of <u>“ribbons”</u> being all over her dress highlights how the foundations of the Cratchits, alike to the “twice turned gown”, may be impoverished . However, they celebrate and glorify the little they have, symbolised by the ribbons, as they display gratitude and love for one another.
Social injustice/ Poverty	1	<i><u>“If quite convenient, sir”</u></i>	Bob’s short exchange of dialogue in Stave 1 represents how poor lower classes were silenced and oppressed by the upper classes.
	1	<i><u>“clerk”</u></i>	His lack of a name highlights how the poor were stripped of their individual identities , consequently causing them to all be seen as one by the upper class- the upper class don’t see them as individual humans, rather a group of lazy people who don’t contribute enough to the economy (Malthusian views).
	3	<i><u>“I’ll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!”</u></i>	<u>“Founder”</u> connotes creator, alluding to how Bob sees Scrooge in a God like way as he believes Scrooge is the creator of Bob’s ability to have what he sees as luxuries. This highlights how the poor are blindly grateful to the same individuals who exploit them- this being a key indictment of Dickens in his political diatribe as Dickens exposes that it is the rich who propagate poverty by preserving their own wealth .
	4	<i><u>“My little, little child!” cried Bob. “My little child!”</u></i>	Pathos and compassion is evoked for Bob. The repeated adjective <u>“little”</u> connotes fragility and innocence , reinforcing that innocent and fragile children are frequently victims to the belligerent cycle of poverty - without social change , the unjust issues of poverty will continue.

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Kindness/ Family	4	<u><i>"My little, little child!" cried Bob. "My little child!"</i></u>	Bob's distress, despite him being an moralistic family man, makes the reader see the unjust punishments the poor face because of societal misconceptions . It is also reinforces how the poor value their family tremendously, as this is all they have.
	3	<u><i>"such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon".</i></u>	The colloquial phrase highlights the elation and commotion around being able to share this "phenomenon" together. The superlative "rarest" serves as irony as within the Victorian period, as it was a cheap bird that was a replacement for turkey . This compounds their gratitude as they celebrate the small amount they can share together- the antithesis to Scrooge who has ungrateful for the abundance of wealth he has.
Religion		Any quotes about their gratitude and benevolence can be included in this.	Bob, and the Cratchits', are the epitome of moralistic, virtuous and religious members of society . They provide the reader a model example of morality and show that an abundant lifestyle does not come from materialism but unity and benevolence .

Fred

THEME	Stave	QUOTES	ANALYSIS
Social injustice/ Poverty		Fred's benevolence shows he does not enforce social injustice (could use the below quotes to support this- also the same for selfishness as he is the antithesis of this)	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.
Kindness/ Family	1	<u>"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!"</u>	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 .
	3	<u>"I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried".</u>	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.
Religion	3	<u>"his offences carry their own punishment and I have nothing to say against him."</u>	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.
Redemption/ Regret	1	<u>"all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled"</u>	The motif of light, presented through the ghost of past, present and Belle, is similarly used with Fred. "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.