

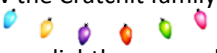




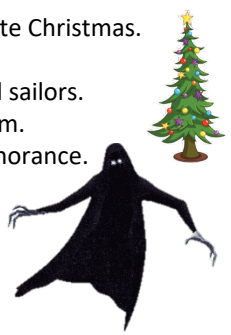


Knowledge Organiser: Yr 11 English;

Literature P1: A Christmas Carol

Plot overview

- The novella opens on Christmas Eve and introduces Scrooge, who is a lonely miser obsessed with money.
- Scrooge hates that Christmas is interrupting his business. Fred invites him for Christmas dinner but he refuses.
- Scrooge is visited by two charity workers, asking for donations. He refuses and says that the poor should go to the workhouse or die. 
- At home, Scrooge is visited Marley's Ghost with a warning, who warns three other ghosts will visit.
- The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives and takes Scrooge in the past to see his lonely times at school, his younger self as Fezziwig's apprentice and his break up with his ex-fiancée Belle. 
- The Ghost of Christmas Present arrives and Scrooge sees how the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas. He learns that Tiny Tim will die unless the future changes. 
- We see how even the most isolated celebrate Christmas: miners, lighthouse workers and sailors.
- He is then taken to Fred's house where they discuss Scrooge and Fred is full of pity for him.
- The spirit reveals Want and Ignorance and tells Scrooge to beware of them, especially Ignorance.
- The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears and takes Scrooge to the future, where he sees a group of businessmen mocking a dead man.
- He then sees Old Joe buying the dead man's stolen property and a young couple who are happy the man is dead as their debt is gone.
- The Cratchits are mourning the loss of Tiny Tim. Bob is distraught. 
- Scrooge is then taken to a gravestone with his own name on it. He realises he is the dead man and vows to change his ways.
- Scrooge wakes up in his own bed. He is delighted he can fix his life. 
- He sends a turkey to Bob and makes a large donation to charity. He then goes to Fred's house for Christmas.
- On Boxing Day, Scrooge tricks Bob then tells him he's going to raise his salary and help his struggling family. Scrooge has completely changed becoming a 'second father' to Tiny Tim – 'who did not die.'



Historical context (AO3)

The Poor Law: made parishes responsible for helping those in need. The 1834 New Poor Law severely restricted the help they could give, forcing much of the poor in to workhouses.

Workhouses: live-in factories that were made deliberately harsh to live in. Inmates had to work on tasks like crushing bones or picking apart rope, but they did receive free medical care and a basic education.

Thomas Malthus: suggested that a growing population would struggle to sustain itself and that anybody who couldn't support themselves was 'surplus population'.

Charles Dickens: Dickens was inspired by a report on child labour in England. He wanted to use his popularity to bring attention to this issue. Dickens could relate to this problem as he had to work in a factory at a young age after his father was placed in a debtor's prison.

Critical vocabulary (AO2)


Philanthropist – a person who raises money for charity.

Miser – a person who is incredibly greedy with money.

Idol – a false god or figure of worship.



Literary/Dramatic Terminology (AO2)

Allegory: A story with a hidden moral or political meaning. 

Caricature – An exaggerated description of a character to emphasise key features. Scrooge is a caricature of a rich and greedy miser.

Key quotations and analysis (AO1 & AO2)

1. 'If they would rather die they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.' (Stave. 1)

The adjective 'surplus' evokes Malthus' concerns about overpopulation. Dickens uses Scrooge here to embody the heartlessness of the wealthy towards the poor.

2. 'I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved.' (Stave. 3)

Dickens foreshadows Tiny Tim's fate to explore the social responsibility the wealthy have towards the poor. The phrase 'carefully preserved' evokes the lasting impression this will leave.

3. 'unwatched, unwept, uncared for' (Stave. 4)

Dickens uses a triplet here to emphasise just how neglected Scrooge is – even in death people treat him coldly and cruelly.

Leave blank to allow students to glue.



- **Retrieval Practice:** Read over a section of the knowledge organiser, cover it up and then write down everything you can remember. Repeat until you remember everything.
- **Flash Cards:** Using the Knowledge Organisers to help on one side of a piece of paper write a question, on the other side write an answer. Ask someone to test you by asking a question and seeing if you know the answer.
- **Mind Maps:** Turn the information from the knowledge organiser into a mind map. Then reread the mind map and on a piece of paper half the size try and recreate the key phrases of the mind map from memory.
- **Sketch it:** Draw an image to represent each fact; this can be done in isolation or as part of the mind map/flash card.
- **Teach it:** Teach someone the information on your knowledge organiser, let them ask you questions and see if you know the answers.

- **Test:** We will do regular low stakes tests to check your ability to retrieve information from memory.
- **Mark our answers:** Once you have done a low stake test you can mark your work using the knowledge organiser.
- **Improve our work:** Once you have finished a piece of work you may be asked to check your knowledge organiser to see if there is any information on it that you could add into an answer.

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