



# ONE SHEET REVISION

## Stave One

*Jacob Marley, the business partner of Ebenezer Scrooge, died seven years ago. On a dingy Christmas Eve, Scrooge, a cold, unfriendly miser, works in his counting-house while keeping an eye on his clerk, a small man named Bob Cratchit. Scrooge's nephew wishes Scrooge a merry Christmas, but Scrooge answers him with a disdainful "Bah! Humbug!" He believes Christmas is the same as any day of the year, a day in which one must still pay bills. His nephew, Fred, thinks of Christmas as a "kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time." He invites Scrooge to dine with him tomorrow, but his uncle rejects the offer.*



1. Consider the decluttered description of Scrooge. Think about how Dickens uses language to present Scrooge. Annotate around the description with your ideas.

**a tight-fisted**

**squeezing, wrenching**

**old sinner**

**secret and self contained**

**solitary as an oyster**

**old features**

**pointed nose**

**eyes red**

**thin lips blue**

**grating voice**

**a wiry chin**



2. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

What is the first line of the novella? How does this line create a sense of tension?

Why do you think Scrooge never paints out Marley's name from the door of the warehouse?

Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, is described as sitting in a 'dismal, little cell.' What are the connotations of cell and how is this symbolic of Bob's situation?

What does light represent in the novella? With this in mind, what is the significance of the following quotation: 'Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal.'

Fred's eyes 'sparkled' and he is all in a 'glow' when he enters. How is Fred positioned to be the opposite of Scrooge?



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Two portly gentlemen enter and ask Scrooge for charity for the poor. Scrooge believes that prisons and workhouses are sufficient, and he dismisses them. Outside, it gets colder. A Christmas caroller tries to sing at Scrooge's door, but the old man scares him away. Scrooge closes up the counting-house and tells Cratchit he expects him to work on Christmas day. Cratchit goes home.



3. For each of the following quotations, consider the following:

- What does the quotation mean?
- What does the quotation suggest?
- What is the significance of the language used?

**“If they would rather die,” said Scrooge, “they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.”**

the stairs before him. He walks through his rooms to make sure no one is there. After, he warms himself by a small fire. A bell in the room starts to ring, and soon all the other bells in the house do. After some time, the bells stop, and Scrooge hears the cellar-door open. Marley's ghost, transparent and bound in a long chain made of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses, enters the room. Scrooge claims he does not believe the ghost exists, but soon he admits he does. Marley says his spirit has been wandering since he died as punishment for being consumed with business and not with people while alive. He has come to warn Scrooge and perhaps save him from the same fate. He tells him Three Spirits will come to him over the next three nights. Marley makes incoherent, sorrowful sounds, then leaves. Scrooge looks out the window and sees the sky filled with other chained spirits, some familiar to him, who cry about their inability to connect with others. He goes to sleep.

4. Consider the following images and make notes around them on how they link to Marley's ghost and the message he brings with him for Scrooge.



**‘Piercing, searching, biting cold.’**



**‘Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern.’**



Scrooge goes through his dreary routine of dinner in a tavern, then goes to his gloomy home. Scrooge sees the dead Marley's face in the knocker of his door until it turns back into a knocker. It gives Scrooge pause, but he resolves not to be frightened. He thinks he sees a locomotive hearse going up

### Written task

Either write a detailed description of what happens in Stave One of 'A Christmas Carol' OR explain how the characters of Scrooge and Marley help Dickens attack the politics of the time which did not recognise the plight of the poor. Use quotations and discuss them.



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