



ONE SHEET REVISION

Stave Three

Scrooge awakes when the bell strikes one, and is immediately prepared for the second Ghost's arrival. After a while, he sees a light come from the adjacent room. A strange voice tells him to enter, and when he does, he sees his room has been decked out with Christmas decorations and a feast. A giant ghost introduces himself as the Ghost of Christmas Present and tells Scrooge to touch his robe. When he does, they are transported to the streets on Christmas morning where, despite the gloomy weather, people frolic joyously in the snow as shopkeepers pass out delicious food. The people carry their dinners off with them and occasionally bump each other accidentally and argue. When the Ghost sprinkles a few drops of water from his torch on them, however, peace is restored.



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

a throne

a jolly giant

glorious to see

a glowing torch

one simple green robe

on its head a holly wreath

genial face

sparkling eye

its open hand, its cheery voice

an antique scabbard

no sword

the ancient sheath eaten with rust

The Ghost transports Scrooge to the modest house of Bob Cratchit. His family, dressed in its best clothing, waits for Bob to return from church before they eat dinner. He comes in with his small, crippled son, Tiny Tim. They discuss Tiny Tim's good heart and his growing strength, then have a wonderful dinner. When Scrooge asks, the Ghost informs him that, unless the future is altered, Tiny Tim will die. At the dinner, Mrs. Cratchit curses Scrooge, but her husband reminds her that it is Christmas.



2. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Mrs Cratchit is described as being 'brave in ribbons'. What does this suggest about her way of life and character?

The younger Cratchits are described as 'ubiquitous' and even the potatoes are personified when they 'knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out and peeled.' Why are the Cratchits and their household described with so much energy?

How are Peter and Martha part of a generation of lost youth? How does Dickens use their characters to criticise society?

Why is Tiny Tim a part of the novel? What is the purpose of his character?

Consider this passage:



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There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being water-proof; their clothes were scanty; and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker's. But, they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time; and when they faded, and looked happier yet in the bright sprinklings of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.

What do we learn about the Cratchits, their purpose and their effect on Scrooge from this?

The Ghost pulls Scrooge away from the games to a number of other Christmas scenes, all joyful despite the often meagre environments. As they travel, the Ghost ages and says his life is short; he will die at midnight. A boy and girl, looking ragged, unhealthy, and impoverished, crawl out from his robes. The Ghost tells Scrooge they are named Ignorance and Want. He tells him to beware of them, especially the boy, on whose brow is written doom. He encourages Scrooge to deny Ignorance in himself and others. When Scrooge asks if the children have no refuge, the Ghost answers with Scrooge's previous words, "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" The bell strikes twelve, the Ghost disappears, and Scrooge sees a new phantom, solemn and robed, approach.



4. 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?

The Ghost brings Scrooge to a number of other happy Christmas dinners in the city, as well as to celebrations in a miner's house, a lighthouse, and on a ship. Scrooge is then taken to his nephew Fred's house, where Fred tells his pretty wife and his sisters he feels sorry for Scrooge, since his miserly, hateful nature deprives him of pleasure in life. Scrooge's niece plays a tune on the harp, which softens Scrooge's heart. Scrooge even joins in for some of their games, though they are not aware of his ghostly presence.

3. Consider the following images and make notes around them that explain why Scrooge is taken to see these places by the ghost. What is Scrooge learning from seeing these places?



'It brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable.'

'They were a boy and a girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish'

'This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.'

Written task

Either write a detailed description of what happens in Stave Three of 'A Christmas Carol' OR explain why Dickens decides to personify the qualities of Ignorance and Want. What can Scrooge learn from seeing them? Use quotations in your answer and discuss them.



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