



The Cratchit family – The Cratchits give us an insight into what life was like for poor in Victorian. Despite their poverty and ill-health (Tiny Tim) they embody the Christmas spirit with their optimistic outlook and strong sense of family.

Bob Cratchit - Scrooge's clerk, a kind, mild, and very poor man with a large family. Though treated harshly by his boss, Bob Cratchit remains a humble, dedicated and loyal employee.

Key quotes:

Stave One

- “the clerk’s fire was so much smaller that it looked like one coal” – the feeble fire represents Scrooge’s cold attitude towards his clerk
- “he ran home to Camden Toward as hard as he could pelt” – this shows how excited Bob Cratchit is to be with his family for Christmas, clear love for his family

Stave Three (Ghost of Christmas Present visits the Cratchits)

- “Tiny Time rode upon his shoulder” – Bob carries Tiny Tim everywhere and is completely devoted to his children
- “Oh what a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit regarded it as her greatest success” – There is clear love between Mr and Mrs Cratchit
- About Scrooge: “I’ll give you Mr Scrooge, the founder of the feast” – this shows his loyalty and gratitude to Scrooge who he defends against Mrs Cratchit’s criticisms

Stave Four (the predicted death of Tiny Tim)

- Peter Cratchit says about his father: “I think he’s walked a little slower than he used to” – this shows Bob is mourning the death of his son Tiny Tim

Stave Five

- Scrooge says to Bob Cratchit: “I’ll raise your salary and endeavour to assist your struggling family” – this suggests the fortunes of the Cratchit family will improve significantly now Scrooge has changed

Tiny Tim - Bob Cratchit's young son, crippled from birth. Tiny Tim is an emotive character who represents the poor health but positive outlook of London's poor

Stave Three

- “God bless us every one!” – this demonstrates Tiny Tim’s positive attitude to life, a Christian belief in making the best of your situation
- “tell me Tiny Tim will live” – the fact Scrooge asks this shows how much of an impact Tiny Tim has on him. Of all the visions that Scrooge sees, Tiny Tim has the biggest effect on him

Stave Four (the predicted death of Tiny Tim)

- “My little, little child! Cried Bob. “My little child!” – this shows how much Bob loved Tiny Tim and how much he mourned his death

Stave Five

- “to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he [Scrooge] was a second father” – Tiny Tim symbolizes the health and state of Victorian London's poor. The fact he lives gives an optimistic ending to the novel – society can be a better place