



Ebenezer Scrooge - The miserly accountant living in Victorian London. The three spirits of Christmas visit him in hopes of reversing Scrooge's greedy, cold-hearted approach to life.

Key quotes:

Stave One

- “He was as tight-fisted as a grindstone” – Dickens shows how tightly Scrooge ran his business
- “Bah! Humbug!” – Scrooge’s famous quote demonstrating his dislike of Christmas
- “Are there no prisons, no workhouses for the poor?” – this suggests that Scrooge believed poverty was almost a crime
- “Then the poor should die and decrease the surplus population” – a shocking attitude demonstrating Scrooge’s lack of compassion for those less fortunate

Stave Two

- “A lonely boy was sat reading near a feeble fire” – this is Scrooge as a young boy, left at his boarding school by his father over the Christmas holidays
- “Scrooge seized the extinguisher-cap and pressed it down upon its head” – here Scrooge covers the light coming from the Ghost of Christmas Past, suggesting Scrooge still finds his past too painful to look at

Stave Three

- To the Ghost of Christmas Present: “Tell me Tiny Tim will live...” – this part shows Scrooge is feeling some compassion at last, he is changing...
- To the Ghost of Christmas Present: “Here’s a new game, one half hour Spirit, one more!” – here Scrooge is actually enjoying himself as he watches Fred’s Christmas party

Stave Four

- To the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: “Tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!” – Scrooge is now desperate to change his ways
- To the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: “I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try keep it the whole year round” – Scrooge makes a promise to live differently if he is given another chance

Stave Five

- “I’ll raise your salary Bob and endeavour to assist your struggling family” – this shows how much Scrooge has changed, raising Bob Cratchit’s salary
- “It was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well” – Dickens finishes the story by telling us Scrooge was a changed man for the rest of his life – he embodied the Christmas spirit.

