



ONE SHEET REVISION

Stave Two

Scrooge wakes up, and the bell of a neighbourhood church rings from six until twelve, then stops. He wonders if he slept through the day and into another night. He looks out the window to an empty scene. He worries over Marley's ghost and wonders if it was a dream. He remembers the ghost's warning of a visit at one at night, and waits. The hour arrives, a flash of light comes in the room, his bed-curtains are drawn aside, and a small figure appears. The figure introduces itself as the Ghost of Christmas Past. It says it is there for Scrooge's "welfare" and "reclamation."



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

strange figure

like a child

like an old man

hair white

arms long and muscular

uncommon strength

tunic of purest white

lustrous belt

dress trimmed with summer flowers

from the crown of its head

sprung a bright clear jet of light

belt sparkled and glittered

figure fluctuated in its distinctness

The old man introduces himself as the Ghost of Christmas Past. He says he is there for Scrooge's "welfare" and "reclamation," then puts Scrooge's hand on his heart. They instantly reappear on a wintry country road around Scrooge's childhood home. Scrooge is deeply affected by the memory, and he walks with the Ghost to the town. They see schoolboys, and the Ghost explains that the people they see are shadows of their former selves, and are unaware of him and Scrooge. The boys run out of school and wish merry Christmas to each other. The Ghost reminds Scrooge that one boy, ignored by the others, remains in school alone, and Scrooge weeps. They walk into the dilapidated schoolhouse, where they see the young Scrooge reading alone by a small fire. The older Scrooge cries again, and says he wishes he had given something to the boy carolling at his door last night. The Ghost says they will see another Christmas, and the young Scrooge grows larger as the room becomes dirtier. Scrooge's younger sister, Fan, enters the room and joyfully announces she is bringing him home for Christmas, as their father is much kinder than he used to be. After they eat and drink with the intimidating schoolmaster, they go off. The Ghost reminds Scrooge that his sister died after having had Scrooge's nephew.



2. Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Scrooge looks upon himself as a schoolboy and describes his past self as a 'forgotten self'. Why do you think Dickens has Scrooge look upon himself in this way?

What does light represent in the novel? With this in mind, what is significant about the follow quotation: 'a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire.'

Scrooge sees characters like Ali Baba, the Sultan and the Genii as well as Robison Crusoe? What is Scrooge actually remembering and what is the significance of this?



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Fan enters and says 'Father is so much kinder than he used to be.' What does this suggest about the relationship between Scrooge and his father?

Scrooge now sees an older version of himself in the prime of life. His face shows the first signs of greed as he sits by a crying girl, Belle. She breaks off their romance, reproaching him for replacing his love for her with the pursuit of money. The scene changes and Belle is now the mother of a raucous, affectionate brood of children. Her husband comes home and tells her he saw Scrooge sitting alone in his office. Scrooge begs the Ghost to take him back to his own time, and takes it upon himself to pull the Ghost's cap over its brightly-lit head. The light cannot be obscured, however, and Scrooge eventually falls into his own bed out of exhaustion.

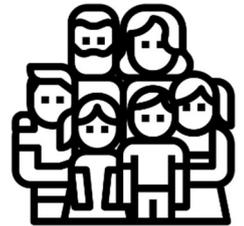
The Ghost and Scrooge travel to the warehouse of Scrooge's apprenticeship. Fezziwig, an old, jolly man, gives Scrooge and another worker the night off for Christmas Eve. Scrooge and his friend quickly clean up and build a cosy fire. Several more people come in and a party ensues. Scrooge enjoys himself immensely until the party ends, when he remembers he is merely revisiting the scene with the Ghost. Scrooge tells the Ghost that Fezziwig's gift of happiness to his friends far outweighs the money he spent on the party. He mentions he would like to say something to his clerk.

4. Consider the following images and make notes around them on how they link to Belle and the Ghost of Christmas Past.



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?



'Fezziwig... called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice'



"The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune."

"I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now! That's all."

Written task

Either write a detailed description of what happens in Stave Two of 'A Christmas Carol' OR explain how the characters of Belle, Fan and Fezziwig help Dickens' purpose of promoting love and family over money and greed. Use quotations and discuss them in your answer.



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