

# Independent Study Knowledge Organiser

## 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Keywords	Key quotes			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allegory</li> <li>2. Analepsis</li> <li>3. Anti-hero</li> <li>4. Morality tale</li> <li>5. Motif</li> <li>6. Non-chronological narrative</li> <li>7. Omniscient narrator</li> <li>8. Prolepsis</li> <li>9. The sublime</li> <li>10. Symbolism</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Decrease the surplus population"</li> <li>2. "Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster."</li> </ol>			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. "I wear the chain I forged in life"</li> <li>4. "External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him."</li> </ol>			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. "What idol has replaced you?" "A golden one"</li> <li>6. "His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it"</li> </ol>			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. "Scrooge was the Ogre of the family. The mention of his name cast a dark shadow on the party."</li> <li>8. "This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want"</li> </ol>			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. "The relentless Ghost pinioned him in both his arms, and forced him to observe what happened next."</li> <li>10. "Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!"</li> </ol>			
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. "I will honour Christmas in my heart"</li> <li>12. "Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father."</li> </ol>			
	<b>Plot tracking</b> <b>Staff 1:</b> Scrooge refuses to embrace Christmas and give to the poor. Jacob Marley's ghost visits Scrooge and tells him he will be visited by 3 ghosts. <b>Staff 2:</b> The Ghost of Christmas Past visits and together they visit Scrooge's past Christmases. <b>Staff 3:</b> The Ghost of Christmas Present visits Scrooge and takes him to see the home of Bob Cratchitt's family and Fred. <b>Staff 4:</b> The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come visits and shows Scrooge awful visions of the future. Scrooge vows to change. <b>Staff 5:</b> Scrooge is grateful for his second chance and redeems himself.	<b>Characters</b> Ebenezer Scrooge – A selfish man who transforms into a charitable philanthropist. Fred – Scrooge's nephew. Jacob Marley – S's dead partner and ghost. Bob Cratchitt – Scrooge's poor clerk. Tiny Tim – Bob's ill son. Mrs Cratchitt – Bob's wife The Ghost of Christmas Past – A strange combination of young and old, wearing white robes and looking like a candle. The Ghost of Christmas Present - A portly, jovial gentleman surrounded by a warm glow. The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come – A robed and hooded spirit who confronts Scrooge with his own tombstone.	<b>Context / Intertextuality</b> 1824 – Dickens' father is sent to jail for debt and Dickens has to give up his education until his father inherits some money. Dickens was put to work in a warehouse, pasting labels on bottles. He had experience of poverty. 1834 – Poor Law Amendment Act – Led to a cut in aid given to paupers to help them stay in their own homes. Workhouses were created which poor people would have to live and work in, if they were unable to pay for their own housing. December 1843 Dickens writes A Christmas Carol focusing on how many of society's ills can be blamed on greed for money and status.	<b>Themes</b> Greed Predestination Free will Poverty Class Stratification Isolation Transformation The passage of time Family Guilt Generosity Redemption Capitalism Social responsibility Justice The supernatural

### Key word tasks

1. Learn the definition of each word.
2. Learn how to spell each word.
3. Use each word accurately in a sentence.
4. Write 5 sentences about the 'A Christmas Carol' using these words.

### Key quotes

#### Write and memorise your answers

1. What does this quotation reveal about Scrooge's attitude to the poor?
2. What does this quotation reveal about Scrooge's personality? Explore Dickens' use of imagery.
3. What is the chain a metaphor for?
4. Describe what this quotation reveals about Scrooge.
5. What does this reveal about how Scrooge's priorities changed?
6. Explain how others view Scrooge.
7. How do the Cratchitts feel about Scrooge and why?
8. What do Ignorance and Want symbolise?
9. Why does the Ghost behave in this way?
10. What is it that makes Scrooge want to change?
11. What is symbolic about Christmas?
12. What is Dickens trying to teach us through Scrooge?

### Plot tracking

#### Write and memorise your answers

Write a paragraph summarising each stave in detail.

Prepare a storyboard of the plot from memory.

Out of the three ghosts, which one do you think had the biggest impact on Scrooge and why?

Pick one of the ghosts and consider how the story would have been different if they had not visited Scrooge.

### Characters

#### Write and memorise your answers

1. Write a paragraph describing what Scrooge is like at the beginning of the novel and how he changes by the end.
2. Find 9 quotations that trace Scrooge's development throughout the novel.

3. Explain how each of the three ghosts affect Scrooge using quotations. You will need a paragraph for each.

### Context / intertextuality

#### Write and memorise your answers

1. Watch the following clips and make notes on the context of the play:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7V4tXuhbk8>
2. Research the following topics and make notes on –
  - Life in Victorian Britain
  - The Industrial Revolution
  - 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act

### Themes

#### Write and memorise your answers

##### Redemption

Which character do you think has the most profound effect on Scrooge and causes him to seek redemption? Write a detailed paragraph.

Do all people deserve the right to seek redemption? Write a detailed paragraph.

##### Greed

How does Dickens present the theme of greed in the novel? Write a detailed paragraph.

How do the ghosts present different ideas to do with greed? You also include the ghost of Jacob Marley. Write a detailed paragraph.

##### Poverty

How is the Cratchitt family presented in the novel and how does Dickens use them to present his overall message on poverty? Write a paragraph.

What social vision do you think Dickens is promoting in the novel?

##### Capitalism

What message does the novel have about capitalism? Write a paragraph.

How has Dickens presented the characters connected to this theme? Write a paragraph.

##### Social responsibility

Do you believe it is the responsibility of society to support those less fortunate?

Write a paragraph.

Who in the novel has the biggest social conscience and why? Write a detailed paragraph.