



Ortu Hassenbrook Academy

A Christmas Carol Knowledge Organiser

Assessment Objectives:

- AO1:** Read, understand and respond to texts. **AO2:** Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate. **AO3:** Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written. **AO4:** Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structure.

LINK TO EXAM:

Lit Paper 1 Section B - Extract question (45 minutes)

CONCEPT Morality text Social criticism	GENRE Gothic	CONTEXT *Industrial Revolution *Workhouses *Religion *Charity AIM HIGH CONTEXT *Link to Nietzsche *Link to Malthusian economic theory *Theory of Binary Opposition (Ferdinand de Saussure and Jaques Derrida) *Freudian theory of psychodynamics
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THEMES

- Charity & the Christmas Spirit
- Redemption
- Poverty
- Social responsibility
- Family
- Loneliness & isolation

PATTERNS & MOTIFS

- Fire
- Cold & weather
- Light and darkness
- Supernatural
- Music
- Caricatures
- Time

LANGUAGE & TONE

- Imagery
- Syntax
- Symbolism
- Contrast
- Humour
- Language – uses imagery, repetition, puns and hyperbole

STRUCTURE

- Written in 5 staves (like that of music - linking to 'Carol' in the title)
- Each staff represents a part of his journey
- Each staff takes the reader and character closer to his redemption
- Start of text shows his current fallen state
- End of text portrays the end of his journey and his complete transformation

KEY VOCABULARY

- Allegory
- Benevolence
- Caricature
- Charity
- Christianity
- Humanity
- Ignorant
- Misanthropy
- Malthus / Malthusian philosophy
- Morality text
- Nietzsche/Nietzschean philosophy
- Parable
- Philanthropy
- Poverty
- Redemption
- Social criticism
- Social reform
- Symbolism
- Upper class
- Victorian
- Want
- Welfare
- Workhouse
- Working class

- A story that has a hidden meaning – usually moral or political.
- Kindness.
- An image showing the features of a subject in a simple or exaggerated way.
- An organisation set up to provide help for those in need.
- Predominant religion in Victorian England. Following the teachings of Christ.
- The quality of being kind, humane, benevolent.
- Lacking knowledge or awareness; uneducated.
- A dislike of human beings.
- Thomas Malthus – economist.
- A text written to teach principles of right and wrong.
- Friedrich Nietzsche – German philosopher.
- A story designed to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.
- The desire to promote the welfare of others especially through charity.
- The state of being poor.
- Being saved from sin.
- A criticism of society and its systems.
- A movement to bring about social or political change & betterment.
- The use of a symbol to represent ideas.
- The social group that has the highest status in society.
- During the reign of Queen Victoria.
- A desire to possess something, or lack.
- The health, happiness of a person or group / a social system that offers assistance to those in need.
- An institution where those unable to support themselves would go.
- The social group who are employed for wages, generally in manual work.

Dickens' intention

To draw readers' attention to the plight of the poor and to highlight the hypocrisy of Victorian society.
 He juxtaposes the wealth and greed of capitalists with the poorer classes and draws attention to the way in which the greed and selfishness of some impacts on the quality of the lives of others. His moral message appears to be that we should care for our fellow man. The transformation of Scrooge suggests that Dickens feels it is never too late for change and redemption. Dickens emphasises the importance of family, friendship and charity in bringing about this change.

PLOT

STAVE 1

1. Introduced to Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve. He is a lonely miser obsessed with money. He won't pay to heat the office properly – meaning Bob Cratchit is very cold.
2. We learn Jacob Marley, Scrooge's business partner, died exactly 7 years earlier.
3. Scrooge is irritated that Christmas Day seems to be interrupting his business.
4. Scrooge is visited by his nephew Fred, who invites his uncle to Christmas dinner. Scrooge refuses.
5. Scrooge is visited by two charity workers, asking for donations. Scrooge refuses and exclaims he wants to be left alone.
6. Scrooge allows Bob to have Christmas Day off.
7. Scrooge, when he is home, is visited by the Ghost of Jacob Marley – warning him he will be visited by three more ghosts to help him change his ways.

STAVE 2

1. Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past who takes him to witness his past.
2. Scrooge is taken first to his schoolboy years and he is reminded how his friends would go home from Christmas while he was left at school.
3. We see him with his sister, who one year took him home for the holidays.
4. Next we are shown Scrooge as a young apprentice, working for Fezziwig. Dickens describes the Christmas ball Fezziwig organised for his employees.
5. Finally, Scrooge is taken to see his ex-fiancée, Belle. We see the scene when they break up, as money has taken over Scrooge's life.
6. Scrooge cannot bear to see any more and struggles with the spirit.



STAVE 3

1. Scrooge is then visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present.
2. The spirit shows Scrooge how the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas. Scrooge asked if Tiny Tim will live. The spirit explain unless there are changes, he will die. The spirit reminds Scrooge of his earlier words: 'If he is to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population'
3. Scrooge is then taken to see how others celebrate Christmas: miners, lighthouse workers, sailors on a ship.
4. He is then taken to Fred's house at Christmas, where they are playing games.
5. The spirit then begins to age, and see under the spirit's robes two children: Want and Ignorance.
6. The Ghost of Christmas Future then appears.



Key Quotes portraying Scrooge's change;

'Hard and sharp as flint' 'squeezing, wrenching, grasping, covetous old sinner'
'tight-fisted hand at the grindstone' 'no warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill'
'Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?' 'decrease the surplus population'



STAVE 4

1. The Ghost of Christmas Future is described.
2. The spirit takes Scrooge to see a group of businessmen discussing someone who has died.
3. Scrooge is then taken to see Old Joe, where he is in the process of buying property of the dead man – which have been stolen.
4. Scrooge then returns to Bob Cratchit's house, where it is revealed Tiny Tim has died.
5. Scrooge is then taken to the graveyard and is shown a grave stone and realises this is for him.
6. Scrooge falls to his knees and begs that he will change his ways.



STAVE 5

1. Scrooge wakes up in his own bed.
2. Scrooge wonders how much time has passed and calls to a boy. He then sends the boy to the poulterer for the prize turkey to give to Bob Cratchit,
3. Scrooge meets one of the charity collectors from earlier and whispers to him that he will give a large donation.
4. Scrooge then goes to Fred's house and is welcomed in. He enjoys the dinner and party.
5. On Boxing Day, Scrooge arrives early to work, and plays a trick on Bob. Scrooge then tells him he is going to raise his salary and promises to help Bob's struggling family.
6. Scrooge is described to have completely changed and becomes a 'second father' to Tiny Tim – 'who did not die.'

The Phoenix Mythology

In Ancient Greek folklore, a **phoenix** is a long-lived bird that cyclically regenerates or is otherwise born again. Associated with the sun, a phoenix obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor. Legends say it dies in a show of flames and combustion. Most accounts say that it lived for 500 years before rebirth.

The phoenix symbolizes renewal and rebirth.



Link to the phoenix

Scrooge could perhaps be linked to the idea of the phoenix which rises from its own ashes: 'Hard and sharp as flint' VS' Light as a feather' – link to the theme of redemption & change.

Key Quotes portraying Scrooge's change (Staves 4&5):

"Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robe, "hear me. I am not the man I was" "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future" "I am as giddy as a schoolboy" "Not a farthing less. A great many back payments are included in it" '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'