

A Christmas Carol

Photocopiable

While Reading

Chapter 1

1 What happened first? Put these sentences in the right order. Number them 1–12.

- a He hears the noise of a heavy chain down below.
- b Then he goes to his rooms in Marley's old house.
- c Bob Cratchit shuts the office.
- d Scrooge gives them nothing.
- e After Fred leaves, two men come into Scrooge's office.
- f Fred comes to visit him.
- g He shuts the door and sits by the fire.
- h Scrooge has dinner in a cheap eating-house.
- i The two men leave the room.
- j They ask him for some money for the poor.
- k He invites Scrooge to dinner.
- l Scrooge is in his office.

2 Match A and B. Who says what?

A	B
Scrooge	'Christmas is a good time – a kind happy time.'
Fred	'It's only on Christmas day.'
The two men	'I made this chain in my life.'
Marley	'Humbug!'
Bob Cratchit	'Aren't there any workhouses for the poor?'
	'How much will you give us?'
	'I sat next to you many times in the days after I died.'
	'Why are you here? You're dead.'

Chapter 2

3 What's the right name, *Old Scrooge* or *Old Fezziwig*?

- a ... had three daughters.
- b ... told everybody at his office to stop work on Christmas Eve.
- c ... paid his clerk one pound a week.
- d ...'s party made everybody very happy.
- e ... spent Christmas at home without any friends.

4 Which ones are wrong?

In the story, Christmas time means:

- a working hard
- b being with your family
- c reading
- d eating and drinking
- e dancing
- f sleeping a lot
- g playing music

Chapter 3

5 Write the right words from the box.

wife sees wine back table takes
dinner kitchen clothes fruit
fire help goose son

The Ghost of Christmas Now..... Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's house. There he his clerk's family for the first time. Mrs Cratchit is wearing her best She is making and her son is watching some food on the When Bob comes in he has Tiny Tim, his youngest, on his because the child cannot walk without Bob puts some in the, his brings the from the and they all sit round the Christmas

6 Write the answers:

- a Mrs Cratchit: 'How was Tiny Tim in church?'
Bob Cratchit:
- b Scrooge: 'Will Tiny Tim live?'
Ghost:
- c Scrooge: 'Are ghosts' lives very short?'
Ghost:
- d Scrooge: 'Ghost, are these children yours?'
Ghost:
- e Scrooge: 'Isn't there a place for these children somewhere?'
Ghost:

Chapter 4

7 Who says this?

- a 'I'll follow.'
- b 'He's dead. He can't use these things.'
- c 'There was nobody there when he died.'
- d 'We were all afraid of him before he was dead – but not after.'
- e 'Tiny Tim was very light.'
- f 'Fred never knew Tiny Tim, but he was unhappy too.'

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8 Let's think that Marley comes to visit Scrooge after the Ghost of Future Christmases leaves. In pairs write down the talk between them and then read it to the other students.

9 At the end of Chapter 4 Scrooge is a changed man. You are Scrooge. Write a letter to the poor people who have to pay you a lot of money (page 29) to tell them that they can pay you next year.

Dear friends,

 Best wishes,
 Scrooge

Chapter 5

10 In Chapter 5 Scrooge does a lot of things for the first time. Mark the right (✓) ones and the wrong (X) ones.

- a Scrooge started singing Christmas carols.
- b He visited Marley's ghost and thanked him for the lessons that he taught him.
- c He laughed for the first time in many years.
- d He bought a big chicken for the Cratchits.
- e He told the two men to go to his office the next day because he was wanted to give them money for the poor.
- f He went to church.
- g He had dinner with the Cratchits.
- h He said 'Humbug' again.

11 At the end of the story Scrooge is a better person. He now knows that Christmas is a time to be kind. Make a list of the presents he can buy for the people that he knows.

Fred	
Fred's wife	
Bob Cratchit	
Tiny Tim	
The two men	

After reading

12 What does each ghost show Scrooge?

Marley's ghost	
The ghost of Christmas Past	
The ghost of Christmas Now	
The ghost of Christmas Future	

13 A fable is a story that teaches a lesson. The lesson in a fable comes at the end of the story. We call it a 'moral'.

A *Christmas Carol* is a fable. Choose the moral that you like best for the story:

- a Our friends and our family are more important than money.
- b Money doesn't make you happy.
- c It's important to help the poor.
- d Christmas teaches us to be better people.
- e We can all learn how to be better people.
- f Adults can change.
- g Good food and good schools are very important in a child's life.

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Chapter 1

1 Ten things are wrong. Find them and make them right.

It was seven o'clock on a warm winter afternoon but it was already dark. There was a thick smoke in the streets but Scrooge was in his office near a big fire. Then his uncle Fred came into the office. His face was yellow from the cold outside but it had a sad smile. Scrooge didn't understand how his nephew could be happy if he was rich. Fred answered that Christmas was a happy time for him. When he left, two women came into Scrooge's office. They asked Scrooge for money to buy the poor some clothes. But Scrooge gave them nothing.

Chapter 2

2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Little Fan was Scrooge's older sister.
- b Mr Fezziwig was a kinder boss than Scrooge.
- c Scrooge's girlfriend left him because he loved another woman.
- d Scrooge's first name is Ebenezer.
- e Scrooge wanted the Ghost of Past Christmases to show him more places from his past.

Chapter 3

3 What happened first? Put these sentences in the right order. Number them 1–8.

- a Then he takes him to Fred's house.
- b When he arrives, Scrooge sees that he's very different from the Ghost of Past Christmases.
- c Scrooge gets ready for the visit of the Ghost of Christmas Now.
- d He also takes Scrooge to hospitals and to prisons.
- e First the ghost takes Scrooge to the Cratchits' house.
- f After the visits, Scrooge sees that the ghost is getting older and older.
- g At twelve, the Ghost of Christmas Now leaves and a new one arrives.
- h Before leaving, the ghost shows him two children, a boy and a girl.

Chapter 4

4 Who's who? Choose the right name from the box. You can use two names twice.

Old Joe Mrs Dilber the cleaner
the undertaker's man the washerwoman
Bob Cratchit Peter Fred Scrooge
the ghost the little Cratchits Tiny Tim

- a had some clothes and some books.
- b wanted to sell 's bed-curtains, bedclothes and shirt.
- c Very poor people brought things to 's shop when they wanted to sell them.
- d was in black.
- e was reading to very quietly.
- f walked very fast with on his back.
- g met in the street.
- h couldn't see 's face.

Chapter 5

5 Answer why:

- a Why is Scrooge so happy that it's Christmas day?
- b Why does Scrooge send the Cratchits a goose?
- c Why does Scrooge put on his best clothes?
- d Why does he talk to the two men?
- e Why is Scrooge afraid when he goes to Fred's house?
- f Why is Fred so happy when he sees his uncle?
- g Why doesn't Scrooge say 'Humbug' now?