

# Knowledge Organiser: A Christmas Carol

Writer's Intent	Characters			
<p>A Christmas Carol is a novella that charts the protagonist's road to redemption. Scrooge is confronted with his character flaws and the decisions that have led to him becoming isolated and disliked. Scrooge's redemption allows Dickens to show the Victorian readers that they, like Scrooge, can adopt a more benevolent and Christian attitude to the poor and those around them.</p>	<b>Ebenezer Scrooge</b> 	The protagonist who is miserly and cruel. He deliberately isolates himself from those around him demonstrating the behaviours that should be avoided. His redemption shows anyone can change.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone</li> <li>2. "Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge</li> <li>3. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me.'</li> </ol>	
	<b>Marley</b> 	The dead business partner of Scrooge who acts as a warning of what will happen if Scrooge fails to change his ways.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.</li> <li>2. "I wear the chains I forged in life"</li> <li>3. "I am here tonight to warn you, that you have yet a chance'</li> </ol>	
	<b>Ghost of Christmas Past</b> 	This ghost is presented as a combination of youth and age as he represents everything in Scrooge's life that has come before this moment. He shows Scrooge moments from Christmases past which have shaped his character to date.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Your reclamation, then. Take heed!"</li> <li>2. "Your lip is trembling [...] and what is that upon your cheek?"</li> <li>3. Though Scrooge pressed it down with all its force, he could not hide the light</li> </ol>	
	<b>Ghost of Christmas Present</b> 	A jovial spirit who is representative of both Christ (through the crown of thorns) and Father Christmas (through his clothing). He shows Scrooge the true meaning of Christmas and how to spread joy to those around you, but also the ills of man.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand</li> <li>2. opened its capacious palm, and floated on, outpouring</li> <li>3. "They are your children! They are the children of all walk the world unseen'</li> </ol>	
<b>Redemption</b> The action of saving or being saved from error, or evil. Demonstrates that through embracing the Christmas spirit (Christian values as defined by Dickens) anyone can change and become a better and more likeable person.	<b>Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come</b> 	The most ominous of all of the spirits, often seen as representing death. He is the one feared most by Scrooge and shows a prediction of his fate if he does not change. In doing so he seals the moral of the story – that anyone can change.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached.</li> <li>2. In the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery.</li> <li>3. The spirit pointed from the grave to him, and back again.</li> </ol>	
	<b>Bob Cratchit</b> 	Scrooge's clerk. He is symbolic of the plight of the poor during the Victorian era but his positivity and belief demonstrates the positive Christian spirit Dickens is wanting to convey.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tried to warm himself at the candle</li> <li>2. "I'll give you Mr Scrooge the founder of the feast"</li> <li>3. "Spirit of Tiny Tim, thy childish essence was from God!"</li> </ol>	
	<b>Tiny Tim</b> 	Bob Cratchit's crippled son who despite his circumstances remains hopeful and sees the best in people. He is a symbol of the spirit of Christmas.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas day who made lame beggars walk" (Cratchit recounting Tiny Tim)</li> <li>2. "I see an empty seat"</li> <li>3. "God bless us everyone"</li> </ol>	
<b>Family</b> Dickens highlights the importance of Familial bonds and the joy these bring. He also shows how family can help in times of hardship.	<b>Writer's Methods</b>			
<b>Forgiveness</b> Dickens shows others' forgiveness (a lack of resentment) as being vital to the path of redemption. He also looks at the need to forgive yourself for past wrongs.	<b>Cyclical Structure</b>	There being clear parallels between the opening of a text and its conclusion. Often used to highlight the key themes in a plot.	<b>Christmas</b> 	By the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, Christmas was seen as the most important celebration of the year. It had begun to be less religious and more family focused as seen in the celebrations in the novella.
	<b>Didactic</b>	Intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive.	<b>Malthus</b> 	Malthus believed that poverty caused overpopulation meaning there weren't enough supplies for everyone. Dickens disagreed.
	<b>Foil</b>	Something or someone that makes another's good or bad qualities more noticeable.	<b>Poor Law</b> 	The Poor Law of 1834 withdrew financial help from the poor and forced many into workhouses. It was this mistreatment of the poor that Dickens was trying to highlight and prevent.
	<b>Pathetic Fallacy</b>	Using the weather to set the tone or atmosphere (eg cold symbolising Scrooge's unkind character.)	<b>Religion</b> 	Christianity was incredibly important in Victorian society, though the values mainly focussed on attending church and restricting yourself. However, Dickens believed that being a good Christian was in fact about being charitable and caring for others = something he demonstrates through Scrooge's redemption and his nephew Fred.
	<b>Symbolism</b>	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.		
<b>Poverty and Charity</b> Poverty is the state of being extremely poor. Dickens explores the unjust treatment of this sector of society – predominantly through the Cratchits – highlighting the need for people to change. One of the ways Dickens suggests this can be done is giving voluntary help (typically money) to those in need. Dickens presents this as being an essential part of the Christmas spirit and beneficial to everyone.				

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Key Word Glossary			
Word	Definition	Example	Word in Action
<b>Apparition</b>	a ghost or ghostlike image of a person.	Scrooge was visited by four <b>apparitions</b> .	
<b>Artifice</b>	clever or cunning devices or expedients, especially as used to trick or deceive others.	In this they succeeded, though not without a good deal of <b>artifice</b> .	
<b>Epiphany</b>	a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization.	Scrooge's <b>epiphany</b> is symbolic of the epiphany that Dickens wanted in the Victorian population.	
<b>Era</b>	a long and distinct period of history.	A social commentary on the Victorian <b>era</b> .	
<b>Guilt</b>	feelings of deserving blame especially for imagined offenses or from a sense of inadequacy : self-reproach	He was wracked by <b>guilt</b> .	
<b>Injustice</b>	lack of fairness or justice.	Dickens wanted to foreground social <b>injustice</b> in Victorian society.	
<b>Social Commentary</b>	is the act of using rhetorical means to provide commentary on issues in a society.	Dickens' A Christmas Carol acts as a <b>social commentary</b> on Victorian society.	
<b>Isolation</b>	the process or fact of being isolated, being alone	<b>Isolation</b> is a significant theme in the novella.	
<b>Inequality</b>	difference in size, degree, circumstances, etc.; lack of equality.	Social <b>inequality</b> is an important theme in A Christmas Carol as Dickens foregrounds the plight of the poor in Victorian society.	
<b>Redemption</b>	the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.	By the end of the novella, Scrooge sought <b>redemption</b> .	
<b>Regret</b>	feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over (something that one has done or failed to do).	By the end of the novella, Scrooge <b>regrets</b> his past.	
<b>Tradition</b>	the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way.	It is a Christmas <b>tradition</b> that stems from the Victorian period that still features in our contemporary Christmas celebrations.	
<b>Morose</b>	Sullen and ill-tempered	He was <b>morose</b> .	