

Knowledge Organiser: A Christmas Carol

PLOT	Key Quotations	Key Vocabulary	Ideas and Themes	Context
Stave One				
Scrooge is introduced as a cold, mean-tempered man whose character is reflected in the weather.	"it was cold, bleak, biting weather; foggy withal" "the cold within him froze his old features" "hard & sharp as flint" "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" "secret and self-contained and solitary as an oyster" "Oh! But he was a tight-fisted, hand at the grindstone, Scrooge!"	Miser Caricature Omniscient Narrator Epiphany Symbolism Pathetic fallacy Juxtaposition Imagery Allegory Redemption Foreshadow Social injustice Novella Transformation	Moral responsibility Christian Values Childhood Isolation Redemption Supernatural Love Poverty	The Industrial Revolution The Workhouse The Victorians The gap between rich and poor Dickens' social conscience
Scrooge refuses Fred's invitation	"Bah! Humbug"			
Charity Collectors	"Are there no prisons?"			
Scrooge reluctantly grants Bob Christmas Day off.				
Marley's ghost	"I wear the chain I forged in life...I girded it of my own free will"			
Stave Two				
The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge his young self.	"Good heaven!" said Scrooge...'I was a boy here' "a solitary child, neglected by his friends is left there still"			
Fezziwig's party	"Why it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart"			
Belle calls off the engagement.	"What idol has displaced you?" "A golden one"			
Scrooge sees how Belle has found happiness.	"Remove me...I cannot bear it"			
Stave Three				
The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge on a tour of London.	"the people were jovial and full of glee."			
Bob Cratchit's Christmas	"Mrs Cratchit...brave in ribbons" "Bob held his withered little hand in his" "God bless us every one!"			
The Miners, Lighthouse keepers and Sailors.				
Fred's Party				
Ignorance and Want appear and Scrooge is reminded of his own words.	"2 children: wretched, abject, frightful..." "The Spirit, turning on him with his own words"			
Stave Four				
The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come is dressed like The Grim Reaper	"shrouded in a deep black garment" "I fear you more than any spectre"			
Gentlemen are discussing a man's death.	"It's likely to be a very cheap funeral"			
Old Joe's shop	"beneath a ragged sheet there lay something covered up"			
The Couple – glad that their landlord is dead.				
Tiny Tim is dead				
Scrooge's grave	"The finger pointed from the grave to him and back again" "I hope to live to be another man..." "I will honour Christmas in my heart..."			
Stave Five				
Scrooge wakes up happy on Christmas morning. He sends a boy to buy a turkey for the Cratchits.	"I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future!" "I am light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy."			
Scrooge gives to charity				
Celebration with Bob				
Scrooge is a new man.	"he knew how to keep Christmas well" "to Tiny Tim...he was a second father"			
		Language and Structure		
		Language Technique	Example	Effect
		Charactonym	The Crachits	Their name links to them scratching out a living, struggling to survive.
		Simile	'solitary as an oyster'	Suggests Scrooge is tightly shut away from those around him. An oyster, however may contain a pearl, suggesting that there may be goodness buried within the hard shell.
		Metaphor	'Ignorance' and 'Want'	They are used to represent all the poor children in society and to show the awful effects of greed. Scrooge feels pity for these 'ragged' children and this extends to a sense of responsibility for all the poor and homeless children in society.
		Personification	'The ancient tower of a church...peeping slyly down at Scrooge'	The Church is brought to life to cast judgement on Scrooge's lack of Christian morality.
		Intrusive narrative voice	'Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge!'	This voice offers trustworthy opinions on the characters which instruct the reader how to respond.
		Alliteration	'alleyways and archways'	Emphasises a sense of a warren of small streets and tight spaces
		Symbolism	'I wear the chain I forged in life'	Marley explains that during his life, he created his own chain through his own actions and warns Scrooge that his own chain is even longer. Dickens uses this symbol to remind Scrooge (and the reader) that the things you prioritise in life will stay with you forever.
		Structure Technique	Example	Effect
		Staves		An unusual structure that mimics a piece of music. It draws our attention to the novel's title and reminds us that carols are songs that deal with themes of joy and the spirit of giving to others.
		Short, exclamatory sentences	'My little, little child!'	This short utterance conveys a sense of emotion, reflecting the distress of Bob at his son's death and furthermore suggesting that he is too distressed to speak fluently.
		Descriptive sentences	'The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, siffened his gait...'	The extended image is clarified by the list of adjectives that repeatedly emphasise the sharp and unmoving nature of Scrooge's character.