

Core Knowledge A Christmas Carol:

Plot

- Stave 1 opens by telling the reader that Marley is dead before moving onto a description of Scrooge as a cold, isolated miser
- In Scrooge's counting house, we see the mistreatment of his clerk, Bob Cratchit. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, visits and invites Scrooge for Christmas dinner, Scrooge refuses. On exiting, he lets in charity workers who again Scrooge refuses.
- Scrooge walks home and after some supernatural sightings he encounters Marley's ghost who is bound in chains due to his actions in life. Marley tells Scrooge he will be visited by three ghosts.
- In Stave 2, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past who shows Scrooge his childhood, apprenticeship with Fezziwig, relationship with Belle and Belle's family. Scrooge finds these memories painful and begs the ghost not to show him anymore.
- In Stave 3, The Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge scenes of Christmas joy including the streets of London, the Cratchit's Christmas and Fred's Christmas. The stave ends with the reveal of Ignorance and Want.
- In Stave 4, the silent Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears and shows Scrooge various things relating to a dead man – business men discussing his funeral, his clothes being pawned, his body, a couple who owe him money. It also shows Scrooge the Cratchits mourning Tiny Tim. Finally, it shows Scrooge his grave and he vows to change.
- In Stave 5, Scrooge wakes on Christmas morning a redeemed man – he is friendly, donates to charity, goes to Fred's for Christmas dinner and becomes a 'second father' to Tiny Tim.

Characterisation and Quotations

Scrooge: miserly (hoards money and does not spend it), misanthropic (a dislike of others), avaricious (greedy), redeemed (saved from sin by atoning for sins)

'Squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!' 'Very low fire' 'thin blue lip' 'He edged his way along the crowded paths of life' 'If they be like to die, they had better do and decrease the surplus population' 'As light as a feather, as merry as a school boy' 'Make up the fires'

Marley: inciting (starting something off), emblematic

(representing something), didactic (teaches a lesson) 'I wear the chains I forged in life' 'Mankind was my business...the dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!'

Fred: jovial (happy), antithesis (total opposite) 'His eye sparkled and his breath smoked'

Fezziwig: benevolent (kind), capitalist (a person who believes businesses should be run for profit) 'He laughed all over himself' 'Fuel heaped on the fire' 'Shaking hands with every person'

Ghost of Christmas Past: symbolic (representing something), illuminating (making something clear) 'he could not hide the light which streamed from under it in an unbroken flood upon the ground' 'bright clear jet of light'

Ghost of Christmas Present: munificent (generous), congenial (friendly) 'its sparkling eye, its open hand' 'horn of plenty'

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: forbidding (scary), ominous (giving the impression something bad will happen) 'Slowly, gravely, silently approached' 'Solemn phantom'

Tiny Tim: selfless (thinks of others before themselves), impoverished (poor) 'frail little hand' 'If these shadows remain unaltered, the child will die' 'circled around the fire' 'hear the pudding singing in the copper'

Methods

Physical appearance: when a character's looks reflect what they are like as characters. Fred is handsome to reflect his kind character.

Motif of fire: a reoccurring image or theme. Images of fire and brightness are used as symbols of emotional warmth. Through other characters Scrooge learns to become warmer he instructs Bob to 'Make up the fires.' This is symbolic of Scrooge's transformation.

Motif of hands: a reoccurring image or theme. Images of hands reveal what characters are like e.g. Scrooge is 'grasping' to show him as a miser.

Cyclical structure: a text which begins and ends in a similar way. Scrooge's interactions in Stave 5 mirror those in Stave 1, however he now treats everyone much differently to demonstrate his change.

Symbolism: when something represents something else for example the light of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Antithesis: total opposite. Characters who are the antithesis of Scrooge are Fred and Fezziwig.

Key words:

Miserly – hoards money and does not spend it

Misanthropic – dislike of others

Avaricious – greedy

Motif – a reoccurring image or idea

Jovial – happy

Antithesis – total opposite

Incite – start off

Emblematic – representing something

Didactic – teaches a lesson

Illuminating – making something clear

Benevolent – kind

Munificent - generous

Congenial - friendly

Impoverished - poor

Perpetuate – carry on

Forbidding – scary

Ominous - giving the impression something bad will happen

Redemption – being saved from sin

Key concepts:

Victorian: the period during the 1800s when Queen Victorian was queen. It is defined by a period of Industrial change.

Industrial Revolution: the change during the Victorian period from agriculture to industry. Dickens explores the capitalist greed that the Industrial Revolution had caused.

Capitalism: Where businesses are operated solely for profit. This system was brought in by industrialisation and led to wealth disparity.

Disparity: inequality. Disparity is shown between the rich and the poor.

Social reform: a change in society. Scrooge's change reflects the change Dickens wants in society.

Malthus: a Victorian economist who believed population would grow faster than food supply and that the poor should not be helped to decrease that population.

Critique: a judgment which gives an opinion. Dickens critiques society.

Intentions

Dispels Malthus' ideas of food scarcity.

Advocates for a more benevolent capitalism.

Reveals the disparity of Industrial Victorian Britain.

Urges his Victorian reader to change their attitudes towards the poor

| Week and focus | Critical knowledge and sequence | Academic Vocabulary (tier 2 and 3) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. A Christmas Carol</p> <p>Whole plot. Stave 1 and Scrooge and Marley</p> | <p>Teacher will pose the question ‘A man begins a selfish, callous miser and ends a generous, kind benefactor. What could have happened to him?’</p> <p>Pupils will revisit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y9 B4: Gothic Fiction – the use of the supernatural – Marley’s ghost <p>Pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key elements of context (Dickens’ life, Industrial revolution, why Dickens wrote the novel) • Key plot points of Stave 1 • Key vocabulary to describe Scrooge and Marley • Key quotes for Scrooge and Marley from Stave 1 • Motifs of fire and hands • How capitalism affected Victorian society • The ideas of Thomas Malthus • Symbolism of Marley’s chains <p>Pupils be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse key quotes • Analyse the presentation of Scrooge and Fred through the motif of fire and motif of hands • Evaluate how Scrooge reveals Malthusian ideas • Analyse the symbolism of Marley’s chains | <p>Victorian</p> <p>Industrial Revolution</p> <p>Miserly</p> <p>Misanthropic</p> <p>Avaricious</p> <p>Inciting</p> <p>Emblematic</p> <p>Jovial</p> <p>Antithesis</p> <p>Motif</p> <p>Malthus</p> <p>Symbol</p> <p>Physical appearance</p> |
| <p>2. Stave 2 and The Ghost of Christmas Past</p> | <p>Pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core knowledge for Stave 2 • Key vocabulary to describe the Ghost of Christmas Past and Fezziwig • Key quotes for these characters • Motif of hands and fire <p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse key quotes • Analyse how Fezziwig is presented through the motif of hands and fire and how he is the antithesis of Scrooge | <p>Symbolic</p> <p>Illuminating</p> <p>Benevolent</p> <p>Capitalist</p> <p>Antithesis</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate how Dickens advocates for a kinder form of capitalism through Fezziwig <p>Learning checkpoint: How is Fezziwig presented as the antithesis of Scrooge? Or How is Scrooge Presented so far in the novella?</p> | |
| 3. Stave 3 The Ghost of Christmas Present | <p>Pupils will revisit:</p> <p>Pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core knowledge parts for Stave 3 Key vocabulary to describe the ghost and Tiny Tim Key quotes for these characters Motifs of fire and hands <p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse key quotes Analyse how the ghost and Tiny Tim are presented through the motif of fire and hands Evaluate how Tiny Tim and the Cratchits reveal the disparity of Industrial Victorian Britain | <p>Munificent</p> <p>Congenial</p> <p>Impoverished</p> <p>Selfless</p> <p>Disparity</p> |
| 4. Stave 4 The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come | <p>Pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core knowledge parts for Stave 4 and identify the key plot points Key vocabulary to describe the ghost <p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse key quotes Evaluate how Scrooge's change is used to urge the Victorian reader to change | <p>Ominous</p> <p>Forbidding</p> <p>Social reform</p> <p>Symbolism</p> |
| 5. Stave 5 and the changed Scrooge | <p>Pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core knowledge parts for Stave 5 and identify the key plot points Cyclical structure and how it shows Scrooge's change Key quotes <p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how Scrooge is presented now Analyse Scrooge's change using the motifs of fire and cyclical structure Evaluate how Scrooge's change is used to urge the Victorian reader to change <p>Learning checkpoint: How does Scrooge change throughout the novella?</p> | <p>Redeemed</p> <p>Cyclical structure</p> <p>Motif</p> |

