

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS



Name:

Class:

Teacher:

How to use this booklet:

The best form of revision you can complete is to reread the entire novella. Remember, the extract you receive in the exam could come from any part of the story. You must be prepared for any eventuality. However, if you are unsure where to start, work your way through this booklet, reading each extract I have selected as the 'most important' parts of the story and completing the activities that follow.

KEY EXTRACTS

How do I use this booklet?

There are a number of ways in which you can use this booklet to help you with your revision for 'A Christmas Carol'. One of the best ways to revise is to reread the entire novella. Exam extracts can be taken from anywhere in Dickens' text so rereading it in its entirety would ensure you are fully prepared. However, if you are struggling, consider the ways in which you could use this 'Key Extract' booklet to help you:

1. Read each extract and complete the activities that follow. Activities have been designed to help you understand the text as well as Dickens' purpose. You will be asked some extract specific questions and should aim to complete these in full sentences. You will also have the opportunity to link the extract to other areas of the novella and I have included some 'Extra Challenge' tasks should you wish to have a go.
2. Read through the extracts and highlight what you deem to be the most important quotations. Aim for a maximum of three quotations. Copy the quotations on to flashcards and explain why they are important to know. Circle small phrases and individual words and explain why you think Dickens has made certain language choices. How do these words and phrases help him get his message across to a reader?
3. Consider the themes in 'A Christmas Carol'. Create flashcards that detail how each theme is explored by Dickens in his novella.
4. Consider the icons used for each theme. Explain verbally to a parent or friend why each icon has been chosen to represent each theme.
5. Link each of the themes in this booklet to the context of 'A Christmas Carol'. Explain why it was necessary for Dickens to include these 'big ideas' in his novella by discussing what was happening at the time the novella was written and how this influenced Dickens' choices when he was writing.

Themes: Dickens' 'Big Ideas' in 'A Christmas Carol'

Here are a list of the themes and ideas Dickens explores in 'A Christmas Carol'. You will be needing them for some of the activities in this booklet. If you think any themes are missing, add them in the spaces provided!



Social injustice



Redemption



**Moral
Responsibility**



Christmas



Regret



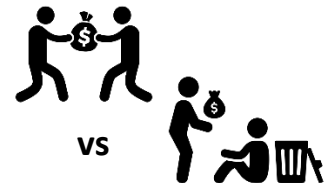
Family



Threat of Time



Inequality



**Greed vs
Generosity**



Poverty



Isolation



Repentance



Gratitude

Stave One, Extract 1: Scrooge's Introduction

The following extract has been taken from Stave One: Marley's Ghost. In this extract we are introduced to Scrooge's character.

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. Even the blind men's dogs appeared to know him; and when they saw him coming on, would tug their owners into doorways and up courts; and then would wag their tails as though they said, "No eye at all is better than an evil eye, dark master!"

But what did Scrooge care! It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call "nuts" to Scrooge.

Once upon a time—of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve—old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house. It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal: and he could hear the people in the court outside, go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them. The city clocks had only just gone three, but it was quite dark already—it had not been light all day—and candles were flaring in the windows of the neighbouring offices, like ruddy smears upon the palpable brown air. The fog came pouring in at every chink and keyhole, and was so dense without, that although the court was of the narrowest, the houses opposite were mere phantoms. To see the dingy cloud come drooping down, obscuring everything, one might have thought that Nature lived hard by, and was brewing on a large scale.

Revision Activities for Extract 1

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Scrooge may be presented as a miserly, 'old sinner' because Dickens wishes:

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How does Dickens use the weather to reflect Scrooge's character?
2. Why do you think Dickens spends so much time emphasising Scrooge's isolation?
3. What events have led Scrooge to this point? Why is he the way he is?

Links to other areas of the text

How is Scrooge's character and the cold Dickens describes in this extract different to Scrooge's character and the cold in Stave 5?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

To what extent does Scrooge's lack of innate generosity contribute to his position as an outsider to society? Answer in full sentences using quotations and ensure you are discussing Dickens' purpose in your response.

Stave One, Extract 2: Bob Cratchit and Fred

The following extract has been taken from Stave One: Marley's Ghost. In this extract we are introduced to Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, and his nephew, Fred.

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of a strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said, "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug."

"Don't be cross, uncle!" said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle!" pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone, then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

Revision Activities for Extract 2

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Fred is positioned by Dickens as Scrooge's foil (contrast) character because he may be wishing

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How is Bob Cratchit presented as being a prisoner of poverty and Scrooge's harsh employment?
2. How does Fred's description differ from Scrooge's in the first extract? Why is it so different?
3. What does Christmas mean to Fred?

Links to other areas of the text

Fred is charitable to Scrooge in this extract. Where else in the novel do we see the idea of charity explored?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'Although Dickens does not reference religion explicitly at this point in the novella, Fred is the embodiment of Christian ideals.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave One, Extract 3: The charity gentlemen

The following extract has been taken from Stave One: Marley's Ghost. In this extract, Fred, Scrooge's nephew leaves Scrooge's counting house and two charity gentlemen enter.

"Scrooge and Marley's, I believe," said one of the gentlemen, referring to his list. "Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge, or Mr. Marley?"

"Mr. Marley has been dead these seven years," Scrooge replied. "He died seven years ago, this very night."

"We have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner," said the gentleman, presenting his credentials.

It certainly was; for they had been two kindred spirits. At the ominous word "liberality," Scrooge frowned, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back.

"At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge," said the gentleman, taking up a pen, "it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir."

"Are there no prisons?" asked Scrooge.

"Plenty of prisons," said the gentleman, laying down the pen again.

"And the Union workhouses?" demanded Scrooge. "Are they still in operation?"

"They are. Still," returned the gentleman, "I wish I could say they were not."

"The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?" said Scrooge.

"Both very busy, sir."

"Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course," said Scrooge. "I'm very glad to hear it."

"Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude," returned the gentleman, "a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?"

"Nothing!" Scrooge replied.

"You wish to be anonymous?"

"I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there."

"Many can't go there; and many would rather die."

"If they would rather die," said Scrooge, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides—excuse me—I don't know that."

"But you might know it," observed the gentleman.

"It's not my business," Scrooge returned. "It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!"

Revision Activities for Extract 3

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Scrooge may be seen to ignore the plight of the poor as described by the charity collectors because Dickens wishes

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What was the Poor Law and why was it introduced?
2. Why was there a 'surplus population' and why would this be seen as an issue?
3. Why is Scrooge incorrect when he says 'It's not my business.'

Links to other areas of the text

*Scrooge shuns his responsibility to help the poor in this extract.
Discuss another area of the novel where we see the consequences of these actions.*

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

*On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:
Explain how Scrooge embodies Malthusian ideas.*

Stave One, Extract 4: Marley's face

The following extract has been taken from Stave One: Marley's Ghost. In this extract, Scrooge arrives home and sees his door knocker transform in the face of his old business partner, Jacob Marley.

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's-book, went home to bed. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.

Now, it is a fact, that there was nothing at all particular about the knocker on the door, except that it was very large. It is also a fact, that Scrooge had seen it, night and morning, during his whole residence in that place; also that Scrooge had as little of what is called fancy about him as any man in the city of London, even including—which is a bold word—the corporation, aldermen, and livery. Let it also be borne in mind that Scrooge had not bestowed one thought on Marley, since his last mention of his seven years' dead partner that afternoon. And then let any man explain to me, if he can, how it happened that Scrooge, having his key in the lock of the door, saw in the knocker, without its undergoing any intermediate process of change—not a knocker, but Marley's face.

Marley's face. It was not in impenetrable shadow as the other objects in the yard were, but had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar. It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look: with ghostly spectacles turned up on its ghostly forehead. The hair was curiously stirred, as if by breath or hot air; and, though the eyes were wide open, they were perfectly motionless. That, and its livid colour, made it horrible; but its horror seemed to be in spite of the face and beyond its control, rather than a part of its own expression.

As Scrooge looked fixedly at this phenomenon, it was a knocker again.

To say that he was not startled, or that his blood was not conscious of a terrible sensation to which it had been a stranger from infancy, would be untrue. But he put his hand upon the key he had relinquished, turned it sturdily, walked in, and lighted his candle.

He did pause, with a moment's irresolution, before he shut the door; and he did look cautiously behind it first, as if he half expected to be terrified with the sight of Marley's pigtail sticking out into the hall. But there was nothing on the back of the door, except the screws and nuts that held the knocker on, so he said "Pooh, pooh!" and closed it with a bang.

Revision Activities for Extract 4

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

In describing Scrooge's door knocker as transforming into Marley's ghostly face, Dickens may be wishing

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What impression does the reader receive of Scrooge's everyday life from Dickens' use of 'melancholy'?
2. Why does Dickens spend so long emphasising the fact that Scrooge has seen this door knocker many times before?
3. Why does Scrooge turn the key 'sturdily'? What is he hoping to prove?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novella do we see supernatural forces appear?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

'The supernatural elements in Dickens' novella detract from the message of responsibility he is trying to present to his readers.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave One, Extract 5: Marley's ghost

The following extract has been taken from Stave One: Marley's Ghost. In this extract, Scrooge's old business partner appears as a ghost, warning Scrooge he must change his ways.

"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?"

Scrooge trembled more and more.

"Or would you know," pursued the Ghost, "the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!"

Scrooge glanced about him on the floor, in the expectation of finding himself surrounded by some fifty or sixty fathoms of iron cable: but he could see nothing.

"Jacob," he said, imploringly. "Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob!"

"I have none to give," the Ghost replied. "It comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men. Nor can I tell you what I would. A very little more is all permitted to me. I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house—mark me!—in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me!"

It was a habit with Scrooge, whenever he became thoughtful, to put his hands in his breeches pockets. Pondering on what the Ghost had said, he did so now, but without lifting up his eyes, or getting off his knees.

"You must have been very slow about it, Jacob," Scrooge observed, in a business-like manner, though with humility and deference.

"Slow!" the Ghost repeated.

"Seven years dead," mused Scrooge. "And travelling all the time!"

"The whole time," said the Ghost. "No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse."

"You travel fast?" said Scrooge.

"On the wings of the wind," replied the Ghost.

"You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years," said Scrooge.

The Ghost, on hearing this, set up another cry, and clanked its chain so hideously in the dead silence of the night, that the Ward would have been justified in indicting it for a nuisance.

"Oh! captive, bound, and double-ironed," cried the phantom, "not to know, that ages of incessant labour by immortal creatures, for this earth must pass into eternity before the good of which it is susceptible is all developed. Not to know that any Christian spirit working kindly in its little sphere, whatever it may be, will find its mortal life too short for its vast means of usefulness. Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused! Yet such was I! Oh! such was I!"

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

Revision Activities for Extract 5

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Marley's ghost voices Dickens' concerns about society and so he appears to Scrooge

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What do the chains wrapped around Marley's ghost represent?
2. Why is Marley condemned to a life of 'weary journeys'? Why can he not rest in peace?
3. Scrooge tells Marley he was a 'good man of business.' Marley responds, saying 'mankind was my business.' What does Marley mean?

Links to other areas of the text

Marley's ghost says 'Mankind was my business.' Where do we see examples of the poor lacking a voice or support in the novel?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

'Marley has to be equally terrifying and benevolent.' Discuss this idea.

Stave Two, Extract 1: The Ghost of Christmas Past

The following extract has been taken from Stave Two: 'The First of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past.

It was a strange figure—like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand; and, in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

Even this, though, when Scrooge looked at it with increasing steadiness, was not its strangest quality. For as its belt sparkled and glittered now in one part and now in another, and what was light one instant, at another time was dark, so the figure itself fluctuated in its distinctness: being now a thing with one arm, now with one leg, now with twenty legs, now a pair of legs without a head, now a head without a body: of which dissolving parts, no outline would be visible in the dense gloom wherein they melted away. And in the very wonder of this, it would be itself again; distinct and clear as ever.

"Are you the Spirit, sir, whose coming was foretold to me?" asked Scrooge.

"I am!"

The voice was soft and gentle. Singularly low, as if instead of being so close beside him, it were at a distance.

"Who, and what are you?" Scrooge demanded.

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Past."

"Long Past?" inquired Scrooge: observant of its dwarfish stature.

"No. Your past."

Perhaps, Scrooge could not have told anybody why, if anybody could have asked him; but he had a special desire to see the Spirit in his cap; and begged him to be covered.

"What!" exclaimed the Ghost, "would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give? Is it not enough that you are one of those whose passions made this cap, and force me through whole trains of years to wear it low upon my brow!"

Revision Activities for Extract 1

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens includes light imagery in this scene because he wishes

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Why is the ghost in itself a source of light? What does light represent?
2. Considering what light represents, what could the extinguisher cap be metaphorical of?
3. Why do you think Scrooge has a 'special desire to see the Spirit in his cap'?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else do we see Scrooge attempting to put out the light in the novella? How is it similar/different to this time?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

Light and darkness in 'A Christmas Carol'. Discuss.

Stave Two, Extract 2: Scrooge as a school boy

The following extract has been taken from Stave Two: 'The First of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to see himself as a child.

"The school is not quite deserted," said the Ghost. "A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still."

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

They left the high-road, by a well-remembered lane, and soon approached a mansion of dull red brick, with a little weathercock-surmounted cupola, on the roof, and a bell hanging in it. It was a large house, but one of broken fortunes; for the spacious offices were little used, their walls were damp and mossy, their windows broken, and their gates decayed. Fowls clucked and strutted in the stables; and the coach-houses and sheds were over-run with grass. Nor was it more retentive of its ancient state, within; for entering the dreary hall, and glancing through the open doors of many rooms, they found them poorly furnished, cold, and vast. There was an earthy savour in the air, a chilly bareness in the place, which associated itself somehow with too much getting up by candle-light, and not too much to eat.

They went, the Ghost and Scrooge, across the hall, to a door at the back of the house. It opened before them, and disclosed a long, bare, melancholy room, made barer still by lines of plain deal forms and desks. At one of these a lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire; and Scrooge sat down upon a form, and wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.

Not a latent echo in the house, not a squeak and scuffle from the mice behind the panelling, not a drip from the half-thawed water-spout in the dull yard behind, not a sigh among the leafless boughs of one despondent poplar, not the idle swinging of an empty store-house door, no, not a clicking in the fire, but fell upon the heart of Scrooge with a softening influence, and gave a freer passage to his tears.

Revision Activities for Extract 2

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

It is important that readers are given the opportunity to see Scrooge as a school boy because Dickens is

criticising/ warning/ exposing/ teaching/ celebrating/
revealing the importance of/ questioning/ establishing

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How does Dickens use the setting to help create sympathy for Scrooge?
2. 'A lonely boy was reading near a feeble fire.' What does the lack of light symbolise here?
3. How will seeing himself as a boy help Scrooge on his path to redemption?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novella do we see Dickens creating sympathy for Scrooge?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

'The past is far more influential than the supernatural when it comes to Scrooge's transformation.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Two, Extract 3: Fezziwig

The following extract has been taken from Stave Two: 'The First of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to see the place where he was an apprentice.

"Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!"

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

"Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

Scrooge's former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-'prentice.

"Dick Wilkins, to be sure!" said Scrooge to the Ghost. "Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick! Dear, dear!"

"Yo ho, my boys!" said Fezziwig. "No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up," cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, "before a man can say Jack Robinson!"

You wouldn't believe how those two fellows went at it! They charged into the street with the shutters—one, two, three—had 'em up in their places—four, five, six—barred 'em and pinned 'em—seven, eight, nine—and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.

"Hilli-ho!" cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. "Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here! Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer!"

Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn't have cleared away, or couldn't have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every movable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter's night.

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs. Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business. In came the housemaid, with her cousin, the baker. In came the cook, with her brother's particular friend, the milkman. In came the boy from over the way, who was suspected of not having board enough from his master; trying to hide himself behind the girl from next door but one, who was proved to have had her ears pulled by her mistress. In they all came, one after another; some shyly, some boldly, some gracefully, some awkwardly, some pushing, some pulling; in they all came, anyhow and everyhow. Away they all went, twenty couple at once; hands half round and back again the other way; down the middle and up again; round and round in various stages of affectionate grouping; old top couple always turning up in the wrong place; new top couple starting off again, as soon as they got there; all top couples at last, and not a bottom one to help them! When this result was brought about, old Fezziwig, clapping his hands to stop the dance, cried out, "Well done!" and the fiddler plunged his hot face into a pot of porter, especially provided for that purpose. But scorning rest, upon his reappearance, he instantly began again, though there were no dancers yet, as if the other fiddler had been carried home, exhausted, on a shutter, and he were a bran-new man resolved to beat him out of sight, or perish.

There were more dances, and there were forfeits, and more dances, and there was cake, and there was negus, and there was a great piece of Cold Roast, and there was a great piece of Cold Boiled, and there were mince-pies, and plenty of beer. But the great effect of the evening came after the Roast and Boiled, when the fiddler (an artful dog, mind! The sort of man who knew his business better than you or I could have told it him!) struck up "Sir Roger de Coverley." Then old Fezziwig stood out to dance with Mrs. Fezziwig. Top couple, too; with a good stiff piece of work cut out for them; three or four and twenty pair of partners; people who were not to be trifled with; people who would dance, and had no notion of walking.

Revision Activities for Extract 3

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Through the character of Fezziwig, Dickens is

criticising/ warning/ exposing/ teaching/ celebrating/
revealing the importance of/ questioning/ establishing/
exploring

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What can Scrooge learn from seeing Fezziwig?
2. Consider the extract from 'In came a fiddler'. What exists here that hasn't so far in the novella?
3. How is Fezziwig presented by Dickens?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novella do we see characters who embody Fezziwig's joyous spirit?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Has Dickens created a realistic character in Fezziwig or are his traits exaggerated to help Dickens deliver his messages of kindness and responsibility?

Stave Two, Extract 4: Belle

The following extract has been taken from Stave Two: 'The First of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge the moment where his fiancée, Belle, ends their engagement.

For again Scrooge saw himself. He was older now; a man in the prime of life. His face had not the harsh and rigid lines of later years; but it had begun to wear the signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye, which showed the passion that had taken root, and where the shadow of the growing tree would fall.

He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

"It matters little," she said, softly. "To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve."

"What Idol has displaced you?" he rejoined.

"A golden one."

"This is the even-handed dealing of the world!" he said. "There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty; and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth!"

"You fear the world too much," she answered, gently. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its sordid reproach. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master-passion, Gain, engrosses you. Have I not?"

"What then?" he retorted. "Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you."

She shook her head.

"Am I?"

"Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You are changed. When it was made, you were another man."

"I was a boy," he said impatiently.

"Your own feeling tells you that you were not what you are," she returned. "I am. That which promised happiness when we were one in heart, is fraught with misery now that we are two. How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I have thought of it, and can release you."

"Have I ever sought release?"

"In words. No. Never."

"In what, then?"

"In a changed nature; in an altered spirit; in another atmosphere of life; another Hope as its great end. In everything that made my love of any worth or value in your sight. If this had never been between us," said the girl, looking mildly, but with steadiness, upon him; "tell me, would you seek me out and try to win me now? Ah, no!"

He seemed to yield to the justice of this supposition, in spite of himself. But he said with a struggle, "You think not."

"I would gladly think otherwise if I could," she answered, "Heaven knows! When I have learned a Truth like this, I know how strong and irresistible it must be. But if you were free to-day, to-morrow, yesterday, can even I believe that you would choose a dowerless girl—you who, in your very confidence with her, weigh everything by Gain: or, choosing her, if for a moment you were false enough to your one guiding principle to do so, do I not know that your repentance and regret would surely follow? I do; and I release you. With a full heart, for the love of him you once were."

Revision Activities for Extract 4

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens may be _____
by showing us the moment Belle ends her engagement with Scrooge.

criticising/ warning/ exposing/ teaching/ celebrating/
revealing the importance of/ questioning/ establishing/
exploring

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Consider the first paragraph. How does Dickens mirror Scrooge's endless greed through his physical appearance?
2. Why does Scrooge 'fear the world' too much? What could Belle be alluding to here?
3. Belle disapproves of Scrooge's greed but what else has driven her to end the engagement?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novella do we see characters reacting to Scrooge's greed, either positively or negatively?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Belle describes 'gain' as the 'master-passion.' To what extent is 'gain' stronger than love?

Stave Two, Extract 5: Belle's new family

The following extract has been taken from Stave Two: 'The First of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge what happened to Belle after she left him.

But now a knocking at the door was heard, and such a rush immediately ensued that she with laughing face and plundered dress was borne towards it the centre of a flushed and boisterous group, just in time to greet the father, who came home attended by a man laden with Christmas toys and presents. Then the shouting and the struggling, and the onslaught that was made on the defenceless porter! The scaling him with chairs for ladders to dive into his pockets, despoil him of brown-paper parcels, hold on tight by his cravat, hug him round his neck, pommel his back, and kick his legs in irrepressible affection! The shouts of wonder and delight with which the development of every package was received! The terrible announcement that the baby had been taken in the act of putting a doll's frying-pan into his mouth, and was more than suspected of having swallowed a fictitious turkey, glued on a wooden platter! The immense relief of finding this a false alarm! The joy, and gratitude, and ecstasy! They are all indescribable alike. It is enough that by degrees the children and their emotions got out of the parlour, and by one stair at a time, up to the top of the house; where they went to bed, and so subsided.

And now Scrooge looked on more attentively than ever, when the master of the house, having his daughter leaning fondly on him, sat down with her and her mother at his own fireside; and when he thought that such another creature, quite as graceful and as full of promise, might have called him father, and been a spring-time in the haggard winter of his life, his sight grew very dim indeed.

"Belle," said the husband, turning to his wife with a smile, "I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon."

"Who was it?"

"Guess!"

"How can I? Tut, don't I know?" she added in the same breath, laughing as he laughed. "Mr. Scrooge."

"Mr. Scrooge it was. I passed his office window; and as it was not shut up, and he had a candle inside, I could scarcely help seeing him. His partner lies upon the point of death, I hear; and there he sat alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe."

"Spirit!" said Scrooge in a broken voice, "remove me from this place."

"I told you these were shadows of the things that have been," said the Ghost. "That they are what they are, do not blame me!"

"Remove me!" Scrooge exclaimed, "I cannot bear it!"

He turned upon the Ghost, and seeing that it looked upon him with a face, in which in some strange way there were fragments of all the faces it had shown him, wrestled with it.

"Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!"

In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its adversary, Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright; and dimly connecting that with its influence over him, he seized the extinguisher-cap, and by a sudden action pressed it down upon its head.

The Spirit dropped beneath it, so that the extinguisher covered its whole form; but though Scrooge pressed it down with all his force, he could not hide the light: which streamed from under it, in an unbroken flood upon the ground.

He was conscious of being exhausted, and overcome by an irresistible drowsiness; and, further, of being in his own bedroom. He gave the cap a parting squeeze, in which his hand relaxed; and had barely time to reel to bed, before he sank into a heavy sleep.

Revision Activities for Extract 5

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

In having Scrooge attempt to extinguish the light but failing, Dickens could be

criticising/ warning/ exposing/ teaching/ celebrating/
revealing the importance of/ questioning/ establishing/
exploring

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What is different about Belle's husband? What does he clearly value which Scrooge does not?
2. Why do you think Scrooge looks upon this scene 'attentively'?
3. Scrooge, in an attempt to put out the light, presses the extinguisher cap down on the ghost's head. What is the significance of this?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novella does Scrooge have little control over the light which is shed upon him?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Scrooge says 'haunt me no longer'. 'Haunt' has negative connotations. To what extent is the ghost haunting Scrooge?

Stave Three, Extract 1: The Ghost of Christmas Present

The following extract has been taken from Stave Three: 'The Second of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by his name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.

It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time, or Marley's, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see; who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.

"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in! and know me better, man!"

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Present," said the Spirit. "Look upon me!"

Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

"You have never seen the like of me before!" exclaimed the Spirit.

"Never," Scrooge made answer to it.

"Have never walked forth with the younger members of my family; meaning (for I am very young) my elder brothers born in these later years?" pursued the Phantom.

"I don't think I have," said Scrooge. "I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?"

"More than eighteen hundred," said the Ghost.

Revision Activities for Extract 1**Summary**

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens has Scrooge enter 'timidly', perhaps

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. This ghost, like the Ghost of Christmas Past, is described as 'strange'. Why does Dickens repeat this word?
2. How does Dickens allude to generosity and abundance in this part of the novella?
3. What does the ghost mean when he says he has more than eighteen hundred brothers?

Links to other areas of the text

In this extract, Scrooge is reverent, meaning respectful. Where else do we see Scrooge acting reverently in the novella?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:
Reverence in 'A Christmas Carol'. Discuss.

Stave Three, Extract 2: The Cratchits

The following extract has been taken from Stave Three: 'The Second of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is taken to see the Cratchit family celebrating Christmas.

Then up rose Mrs. Cratchit, Cratchit's wife, dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons, which are cheap and make a goodly show for sixpence; and she laid the cloth, assisted by Belinda Cratchit, second of her daughters, also brave in ribbons; while Master Peter Cratchit plunged a fork into the saucepan of potatoes, and getting the corners of his monstrous shirt collar (Bob's private property, conferred upon his son and heir in honour of the day) into his mouth, rejoiced to find himself so gallantly attired, and yearned to show his linen in the fashionable Parks. And now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came tearing in, screaming that outside the baker's they had smelt the goose, and known it for their own; and basking in luxurious thoughts of sage and onion, these young Cratchits danced about the table, and exalted Master Peter Cratchit to the skies, while he (not proud, although his collars nearly choked him) blew the fire, until the slow potatoes bubbling up, knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out and peeled.

"What has ever got your precious father then?" said Mrs. Cratchit. "And your brother, Tiny Tim! And Martha warn't as late last Christmas Day by half-an-hour?"

"Here's Martha, mother!" said a girl, appearing as she spoke.

"Here's Martha, mother!" cried the two young Cratchits. "Hurrah! There's such a goose, Martha!"

"Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!" said Mrs. Cratchit, kissing her a dozen times, and taking off her shawl and bonnet for her with officious zeal.

"We'd a deal of work to finish up last night," replied the girl, "and had to clear away this morning, mother!"

"Well! Never mind so long as you are come," said Mrs. Cratchit. "Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and have a warm, Lord bless ye!"

"No, no! There's father coming," cried the two young Cratchits, who were everywhere at once. "Hide, Martha, hide!"

So Martha hid herself, and in came little Bob, the father, with at least three feet of comforter exclusive of the fringe, hanging down before him; and his threadbare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable; and Tiny Tim upon his shoulder. Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame!

"Why, where's our Martha?" cried Bob Cratchit, looking round.

"Not coming," said Mrs. Cratchit.

"Not coming!" said Bob, with a sudden declension in his high spirits; for he had been Tim's blood horse all the way from church, and had come home rampant. "Not coming upon Christmas Day!"

Martha didn't like to see him disappointed, if it were only in joke; so she came out prematurely from behind the closet door, and ran into his arms, while the two young Cratchits hustled Tiny Tim, and bore him off into the wash-house, that he might hear the pudding singing in the copper.

"And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs. Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity, and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart's content.

"As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

Revision Activities for Extract 2

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

The Cratchits are hugely important characters because they enable Dickens

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish/ to explore

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What do you think Dickens means when he says Mrs Cratchit is 'brave in ribbons'?
2. Consider the first paragraph. What is significant about the increased pace and sense of excitement Dickens creates at this point?
3. Dickens emphasises the importance of family in this extract. Why is family important?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel does Dickens explore the importance of family?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

'The Cratchits are unrealistic in the way they are seen to defy poverty. Their happiness weakens Dickens' message that we should help and support the poor.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Three, Extract 3: A remote Christmas

The following extract has been taken from Stave Three: 'The Second of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is taken by the Ghost of Christmas Present to see how Christmas is celebrated in remote locations.

And now, without a word of warning from the Ghost, they stood upon a bleak and desert moor, where monstrous masses of rude stone were cast about, as though it were the burial-place of giants; and water spread itself wheresoever it listed, or would have done so, but for the frost that held it prisoner; and nothing grew but moss and furze, and coarse rank grass. Down in the west the setting sun had left a streak of fiery red, which glared upon the desolation for an instant, like a sullen eye, and frowning lower, lower, lower yet, was lost in the thick gloom of darkest night.

"What place is this?" asked Scrooge.

"A place where Miners live, who labour in the bowels of the earth," returned the Spirit. "But they know me. See!"

A light shone from the window of a hut, and swiftly they advanced towards it. Passing through the wall of mud and stone, they found a cheerful company assembled round a glowing fire. An old, old man and woman, with their children and their children's children, and another generation beyond that, all decked out gaily in their holiday attire. The old man, in a voice that seldom rose above the howling of the wind upon the barren waste, was singing them a Christmas song—it had been a very old song when he was a boy—and from time to time they all joined in the chorus. So surely as they raised their voices, the old man got quite blithe and loud; and so surely as they stopped, his vigour sank again.

The Spirit did not tarry here, but bade Scrooge hold his robe, and passing on above the moor, sped—whither? Not to sea? To sea. To Scrooge's horror, looking back, he saw the last of the land, a frightful range of rocks, behind them; and his ears were deafened by the thundering of water, as it rolled and roared, and raged among the dreadful caverns it had worn, and fiercely tried to undermine the earth.

Built upon a dismal reef of sunken rocks, some league or so from shore, on which the waters chafed and dashed, the wild year through, there stood a solitary lighthouse. Great heaps of sea-weed clung to its base, and storm-birds—born of the wind one might suppose, as sea-weed of the water—rose and fell about it, like the waves they skimmed.

But even here, two men who watched the light had made a fire, that through the loophole in the thick stone wall shed out a ray of brightness on the awful sea. Joining their horny hands over the rough table at which they sat, they wished each other Merry Christmas in their can of grog; and one of them: the elder, too, with his face all damaged and scarred with hard weather, as the figure-head of an old ship might be: struck up a sturdy song that was like a Gale in itself.

Again the Ghost sped on, above the black and heaving sea—on, on—until, being far away, as he told Scrooge, from any shore, they lighted on a ship. They stood beside the helmsman at the wheel, the look-out in the bow, the officers who had the watch; dark, ghostly figures in their several stations; but every man among them hummed a Christmas tune, or had a Christmas thought, or spoke below his breath to his companion of some bygone Christmas Day, with homeward hopes belonging to it. And every man on board, waking or sleeping, good or bad, had had a kinder word for another on that day than on any day in the year; and had shared to some extent in its festivities; and had remembered those he cared for at a distance, and had known that they delighted to remember him.

Revision Activities for Extract 3

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

By showing Scrooge (and the reader) that no place is too remote or desolate for the Christmas spirit to get to, Dickens is

criticising/ warning/ exposing/ teaching/ celebrating/
revealing the importance of/ questioning/establishing/
exploring

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. What does this extract reveal about the power of Christmas?
2. What can Scrooge learn from seeing these isolated and remote locations?
3. Does it matter how one celebrates Christmas? What do you think Dickens' views on this matter are?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel does Dickens explore Christmas celebrations?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

'Christmas is the most powerful force in the novella.' Discuss.

Stave Three, Extract 4: Fred's Christmas

The following extract has been taken from Stave Three: 'The Second of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is taken by the Ghost of Christmas Present to see how Fred, Scrooge's nephew, celebrates Christmas.

It was a great surprise to Scrooge, while listening to the moaning of the wind, and thinking what a solemn thing it was to move on through the lonely darkness over an unknown abyss, whose depths were secrets as profound as Death: it was a great surprise to Scrooge, while thus engaged, to hear a hearty laugh. It was a much greater surprise to Scrooge to recognise it as his own nephew's and to find himself in a bright, dry, gleaming room, with the Spirit standing smiling by his side, and looking at that same nephew with approving affability!

"Ha, ha!" laughed Scrooge's nephew. "Ha, ha, ha!"

If you should happen, by any unlikely chance, to know a man more blest in a laugh than Scrooge's nephew, all I can say is, I should like to know him too. Introduce him to me, and I'll cultivate his acquaintance.

It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. When Scrooge's nephew laughed in this way: holding his sides, rolling his head, and twisting his face into the most extravagant contortions: Scrooge's niece, by marriage, laughed as heartily as he. And their assembled friends being not a bit behindhand, roared out lustily.

"Ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

"He said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live!" cried Scrooge's nephew. "He believed it too!"

"More shame for him, Fred!" said Scrooge's niece, indignantly. Bless those women; they never do anything by halves. They are always in earnest.

She was very pretty: exceedingly pretty. With a dimpled, surprised-looking, capital face; a ripe little mouth, that seemed made to be kissed—as no doubt it was; all kinds of good little dots about her chin, that melted into one another when she laughed; and the sunniest pair of eyes you ever saw in any little creature's head. Altogether she was what you would have called provoking, you know; but satisfactory, too. Oh, perfectly satisfactory.

"He's a comical old fellow," said Scrooge's nephew, "that's the truth: and not so pleasant as he might be. However, his offences carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him."

"I'm sure he is very rich, Fred," hinted Scrooge's niece. "At least you always tell me so."

"What of that, my dear!" said Scrooge's nephew. "His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it. He don't make himself comfortable with it. He hasn't the satisfaction of thinking—ha, ha, ha!—that he is ever going to benefit US with it."

"I have no patience with him," observed Scrooge's niece. Scrooge's niece's sisters, and all the other ladies, expressed the same opinion.

"Oh, I have!" said Scrooge's nephew. "I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims! Himself, always. Here, he takes it into his head to dislike us, and he won't come and dine with us. What's the consequence? He don't lose much of a dinner."

"Indeed, I think he loses a very good dinner," interrupted Scrooge's niece. Everybody else said the same, and they must be allowed to have been competent judges, because they had just had dinner; and, with the dessert upon the table, were clustered round the fire, by lamplight.

Revision Activities for Extract 4

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens may have Fred express some sympathy for Scrooge as he wishes

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish/
to explore

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Why do you think Dickens spends so long focusing on Fred's laugh?
2. Consider the penultimate paragraph. How is the importance of family alluded to here?
3. Fred says Scrooge's 'offences carry their own punishment'. What does he mean by this?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel does Dickens discuss Fred and Scrooge's relationship?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'Dickens presents readers with an unrealistic picture of familial relationships.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Three, Extract 5: Ignorance and Want

The following extract has been taken from Stave Three: 'The Second of the Three Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is forced to face Ignorance and Want, two creations of a society that shuns its moral responsibility.

The chimes were ringing the three quarters past eleven at that moment.

"Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask," said Scrooge, looking intently at the Spirit's robe, "but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?"

"It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it," was the Spirit's sorrowful reply. "Look here."

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

"Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!" exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude.

"Spirit! are they yours?" Scrooge could say no more.

"They are Man's," said the Spirit, looking down upon them. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!" cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. "Slander those who tell it ye! Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse. And bide the end!"

"Have they no refuge or resource?" cried Scrooge.

"Are there no prisons?" said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. "Are there no workhouses?"

The bell struck twelve.

Revision Activities for Extract 5

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Through the figures of Ignorance and Want, Dickens is able

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/ to establish/
to explore

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Why do you think Dickens presents Ignorance and Want as children?
2. Why does the Ghost of Christmas Present force Scrooge to look at Ignorance and Want?
3. The Ghost of Christmas Present says Ignorance and Want are 'man's' and 'doom' is written on the brow of 'Ignorance.' What is he saying will happen if man remains ignorant to the plight of the poor?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see examples of Scrooge's own ignorance and want?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'Ignorance and Want can never be rid from society because they are both deeply ingrained in humanity.' Discuss.

Stave Four, Extract 1: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

The following extract has been taken from Stave Four: 'The Last of the Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached. When it came near him, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery.

It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.

He felt that it was tall and stately when it came beside him, and that its mysterious presence filled him with a solemn dread. He knew no more, for the Spirit neither spoke nor moved.

"I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?" said Scrooge.

The Spirit answered not, but pointed onward with its hand.

"You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us," Scrooge pursued. "Is that so, Spirit?"

The upper portion of the garment was contracted for an instant in its folds, as if the Spirit had inclined its head. That was the only answer he received.

Although well used to ghostly company by this time, Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him, and he found that he could hardly stand when he prepared to follow it. The Spirit paused a moment, as observing his condition, and giving him time to recover.

But Scrooge was all the worse for this. It thrilled him with a vague uncertain horror, to know that behind the dusky shroud, there were ghostly eyes intently fixed upon him, while he, though he stretched his own to the utmost, could see nothing but a spectral hand and one great heap of black.

"Ghost of the Future!" he exclaimed, "I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?"

It gave him no reply. The hand was pointed straight before them.

"Lead on!" said Scrooge. "Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit!"

Revision Activities for Extract 1

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Unlike the rest of the novella, there is an absence of light imagery in Stave Four, enabling Dickens

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Why does this ghost remain silent?
2. How does Dickens use language to present the ghost as a figure to be feared?
3. How does Scrooge react to this ghost compared to the others?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see Scrooge's fears?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

How does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come allude to the threat of time?

Stave Four, Extract 2: An ignored society (1)

The following extract has been taken from Stave Four: 'The Last of the Spirits'. In this extract, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge where those who are extremely poor live.

Quiet and dark, beside him stood the Phantom, with its outstretched hand. When he roused himself from his thoughtful quest, he fancied from the turn of the hand, and its situation in reference to himself, that the Unseen Eyes were looking at him keenly. It made him shudder, and feel very cold.

They left the busy scene, and went into an obscure part of the town, where Scrooge had never penetrated before, although he recognised its situation, and its bad repute. The ways were foul and narrow; the shops and houses wretched; the people half-naked, drunken, slipshod, ugly. Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offences of smell, and dirt, and life, upon the straggling streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery.

Far in this den of infamous resort, there was a low-browed, beetling shop, below a pent-house roof, where iron, old rags, bottles, bones, and greasy offal, were bought. Upon the floor within, were piled up heaps of rusty keys, nails, chains, hinges, files, scales, weights, and refuse iron of all kinds. Secrets that few would like to scrutinise were bred and hidden in mountains of unseemly rags, masses of corrupted fat, and sepulchres of bones. Sitting in among the wares he dealt in, by a charcoal stove, made of old bricks, was a grey-haired rascal, nearly seventy years of age; who had screened himself from the cold air without, by a frousy curtaining of miscellaneous tatters, hung upon a line; and smoked his pipe in all the luxury of calm retirement.

Scrooge and the Phantom came into the presence of this man, just as a woman with a heavy bundle slunk into the shop. But she had scarcely entered, when another woman, similarly laden, came in too; and she was closely followed by a man in faded black, who was no less startled by the sight of them, than they had been upon the recognition of each other. After a short period of blank astonishment, in which the old man with the pipe had joined them, they all three burst into a laugh.

Revision Activities for Extract 2

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

It is important Dickens shows readers the conditions the poor have to suffer in order for him

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How does Dickens use language to describe the poverty-ridden streets?
2. Why is it important that Scrooge sees the condition of these streets?
3. Why has this situation been ignored for so long?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see the results of ignorance?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following activity:

Poverty. Discuss.

Stave Four, Extract 3: An ignored society (2)

The following extract has been taken from Stave Four: 'The Last of the Spirits'. In this extract, although he does not realise it, Scrooge is watching people sell his things.

But the gallantry of her friends would not allow of this; and the man in faded black, mounting the breach first, produced his plunder. It was not extensive. A seal or two, a pencil-case, a pair of sleeve-buttons, and a brooch of no great value, were all. They were severally examined and appraised by old Joe, who chalked the sums he was disposed to give for each, upon the wall, and added them up into a total when he found there was nothing more to come.

"That's your account," said Joe, "and I wouldn't give another sixpence, if I was to be boiled for not doing it. Who's next?"

Mrs. Dilber was next. Sheets and towels, a little wearing apparel, two old-fashioned silver teaspoons, a pair of sugar-tongs, and a few boots. Her account was stated on the wall in the same manner.

"I always give too much to ladies. It's a weakness of mine, and that's the way I ruin myself," said old Joe. "That's your account. If you asked me for another penny, and made it an open question, I'd repent of being so liberal and knock off half-a-crown."

"And now undo my bundle, Joe," said the first woman.

Joe went down on his knees for the greater convenience of opening it, and having unfastened a great many knots, dragged out a large and heavy roll of some dark stuff.

"What do you call this?" said Joe. "Bed-curtains!"

"Ah!" returned the woman, laughing and leaning forward on her crossed arms. "Bed-curtains!"

"You don't mean to say you took 'em down, rings and all, with him lying there?" said Joe.

"Yes I do," replied the woman. "Why not?"

"You were born to make your fortune," said Joe, "and you'll certainly do it."

"I certainly shan't hold my hand, when I can get anything in it by reaching it out, for the sake of such a man as He was, I promise you, Joe," returned the woman coolly. "Don't drop that oil upon the blankets, now."

"His blankets?" asked Joe.

"Whose else's do you think?" replied the woman. "He isn't likely to take cold without 'em, I dare say."

"I hope he didn't die of anything catching? Eh?" said old Joe, stopping in his work, and looking up.

"Don't you be afraid of that," returned the woman. "I an't so fond of his company that I'd loiter about him for such things, if he did. Ah! you may look through that shirt till your eyes ache; but you won't find a hole in it, nor a threadbare place. It's the best he had, and a fine one too. They'd have wasted it, if it hadn't been for me."

"What do you call wasting of it?" asked old Joe.

"Putting it on him to be buried in, to be sure," replied the woman with a laugh. "Somebody was fool enough to do it, but I took it off again. If calico an't good enough for such a purpose, it isn't good enough for anything. It's quite as becoming to the body. He can't look uglier than he did in that one."

Scrooge listened to this dialogue in horror. As they sat grouped about their spoil, in the scanty light afforded by the old man's lamp, he viewed them with a detestation and disgust, which could hardly have been greater, though they had been obscene demons, marketing the corpse itself.

Revision Activities for Extract 3

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens highlights the lengths people will go to in order to survive

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Are the actions of the characters that appear in the extract justifiable?
2. What have been the consequences of Scrooge's actions?
3. How do the poor in this extract differ from the Cratchits?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see characters thinking only of themselves?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Does this extract make Scrooge's fear of falling into poverty more understandable?

Stave Four, Extract 4: Mourning Tiny Tim

The following extract has been taken from Stave Four: 'The Last of the Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge visits the Cratchits again and finds them mourning the loss of Tiny Tim.

The Ghost conducted him through several streets familiar to his feet; and as they went along, Scrooge looked here and there to find himself, but nowhere was he to be seen. They entered poor Bob Cratchit's house; the dwelling he had visited before; and found the mother and the children seated round the fire.

Quiet. Very quiet. The noisy little Cratchits were as still as statues in one corner, and sat looking up at Peter, who had a book before him. The mother and her daughters were engaged in sewing. But surely they were very quiet!

" 'And He took a child, and set him in the midst of them.' "

Where had Scrooge heard those words? He had not dreamed them. The boy must have read them out, as he and the Spirit crossed the threshold. Why did he not go on?

The mother laid her work upon the table, and put her hand up to her face.

"The colour hurts my eyes," she said.

The colour? Ah, poor Tiny Tim!

"They're better now again," said Cratchit's wife. "It makes them weak by candle-light; and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes home, for the world. It must be near his time."

"Past it rather," Peter answered, shutting up his book. "But I think he has walked a little slower than he used, these few last evenings, mother."

They were very quiet again. At last she said, and in a steady, cheerful voice, that only faltered once:

"I have known him walk with—I have known him walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed."

"And so have I," cried Peter. "Often."

"And so have I," exclaimed another. So had all.

"But he was very light to carry," she resumed, intent upon her work, "and his father loved him so, that it was no trouble: no trouble. And there is your father at the door!"

She hurried out to meet him; and little Bob in his comforter—he had need of it, poor fellow—came in. His tea was ready for him on the hob, and they all tried who should help him to it most. Then the two young Cratchits got upon his knees and laid, each child a little cheek, against his face, as if they said, "Don't mind it, father. Don't be grieved!"

Bob was very cheerful with them, and spoke pleasantly to all the family. He looked at the work upon the table, and praised the industry and speed of Mrs. Cratchit and the girls. They would be done long before Sunday, he said.

"Sunday! You went to-day, then, Robert?" said his wife.

"Yes, my dear," returned Bob. "I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you'll see it often. I promised him that I would walk there on a Sunday. My little, little child!" cried Bob. "My little child!"

Revision Activities for Extract 4

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens uses the death of Tiny Tim

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. The little Cratchits are described 'as still as statues.' How does this differ from the last time we saw them?
2. Bob describes Tiny Tim as 'little'. How does this allude to Tiny Tim's vulnerability?
3. How is Bob still capable of being 'cheerful'? What does his family offer him?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see family as a support network?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'This moment is the moment which convinces Scrooge to change.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Four, Extract 5: Scrooge's epiphany

The following extract has been taken from Stave Four: 'The Last of the Spirits'. In this extract, Scrooge realises he will be dead in the future and that no one will mourn him.

"Am I that man who lay upon the bed?" he cried, upon his knees.

The finger pointed from the grave to him, and back again.

"No, Spirit! Oh no, no!"

The finger still was there.

"Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robe, "hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope!"

For the first time the hand appeared to shake.

"Good Spirit," he pursued, as down upon the ground he fell before it: "Your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!"

The kind hand trembled.

"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. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!"

In his agony, he caught the spectral hand. It sought to free itself, but he was strong in his entreaty, and detained it. The Spirit, stronger yet, repulsed him.

Holding up his hands in a last prayer to have his fate reversed, he saw an alteration in the Phantom's hood and dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwindled down into a bedpost.

Revision Activities for Extract 5

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens finally shows Scrooge as changed

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How does Dickens present Scrooge as terrified in this extract?
2. Dickens describes Scrooge as 'holding up his hands in a last prayer.' Why is this significant?
3. Dickens describes Scrooge as being in 'agony'. Scrooge is not in physical pain so what is he agonising over?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see moments where Scrooge is changing?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'Scrooge only changes to save himself from death. He is still selfish at this point.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Five, Extract 1: Scrooge's transformation

The following extract has been taken from Stave Five: 'The End Of It'. In this extract, Scrooge is returned to the present day and celebrates his transformation.

Yes! and the bedpost was his own. The bed was his own, the room was his own. Best and happiest of all, the Time before him was his own, to make amends in!

"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed. "The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob; on my knees!"

He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call. He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears.

"They are not torn down," cried Scrooge, folding one of his bed-curtains in his arms, "they are not torn down, rings and all. They are here—I am here—the shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be. I know they will!"

His hands were busy with his garments all this time; turning them inside out, putting them on upside down, tearing them, mislaying them, making them parties to every kind of extravagance.

"I don't know what to do!" cried Scrooge, laughing and crying in the same breath; and making a perfect Laocoön of himself with his stockings. "I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world. Hallo here! Whoop! Hallo!"

He had frisked into the sitting-room, and was now standing there: perfectly winded.

Revision Activities for Extract 1

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Dickens shows that Scrooge, the worst man in London, can change

to criticise/ to warn/ to expose/ to teach/ to celebrate/
to reveal the importance of/ to question/to establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Why is it significant that Scrooge says he is 'as light as a feather'?
2. Why is it significant that Scrooge says he is 'as merry as a schoolboy'?
3. Why is Scrooge's energy and enthusiasm significant?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel have we seen characters as happy as Scrooge is now?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Redemption. Discuss.

Stave Five, Extract 2: A cyclical narrative

The following extract has been taken from Stave Five: 'The End Of It'. In this extract, Scrooge is wandering the streets when he encounters some familiar faces.

He had not gone far, when coming on towards him he beheld the portly gentleman, who had walked into his counting-house the day before, and said, "Scrooge and Marley's, I believe?" It sent a pang across his heart to think how this old gentleman would look upon him when they met; but he knew what path lay straight before him, and he took it.

"My dear sir," said Scrooge, quickening his pace, and taking the old gentleman by both his hands. "How do you do? I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A merry Christmas to you, sir!"

"Mr. Scrooge?"

"Yes," said Scrooge. "That is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon. And will you have the goodness"—here Scrooge whispered in his ear.

"Lord bless me!" cried the gentleman, as if his breath were taken away. "My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?"

"If you please," said Scrooge. "Not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favour?"

"My dear sir," said the other, shaking hands with him. "I don't know what to say to such munifi—"

"Don't say anything, please," retorted Scrooge. "Come and see me. Will you come and see me?"

"I will!" cried the old gentleman. And it was clear he meant to do it.

"Thank'ee," said Scrooge. "I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!"

He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness. In the afternoon he turned his steps towards his nephew's house.

He passed the door a dozen times, before he had the courage to go up and knock. But he made a dash, and did it:

"Is your master at home, my dear?" said Scrooge to the girl. Nice girl! Very.

"Yes, sir."

"Where is he, my love?" said Scrooge.

"He's in the dining-room, sir, along with mistress. I'll show you up-stairs, if you please."

"Thank'ee. He knows me," said Scrooge, with his hand already on the dining-room lock. "I'll go in here, my dear."

He turned it gently, and sidled his face in, round the door. They were looking at the table (which was spread out in great array); for these young housekeepers are always nervous on such points, and like to see that everything is right.

"Fred!" said Scrooge.

Dear heart alive, how his niece by marriage started! Scrooge had forgotten, for the moment, about her sitting in the corner with the footstool, or he wouldn't have done it, on any account.

"Why bless my soul!" cried Fred, "who's that?"

"It's I. Your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?"

Revision Activities for Extract 2

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

The events of Stave Five mirror the events of Stave One so Dickens can

criticise/ warn/ expose/ teach/ celebrate/ reveal the importance of/ question/establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. How does this extract mirror what happens in Stave One? How have things changed?
2. Dickens says Scrooge went to church. What or who is Scrooge inviting into his life?
3. Fred welcomes Scrooge back into his home. What has Scrooge finally discovered?

Links to other areas of the text

Where else in the novel do we see Scrooge taking an interest in the typical goings on of society.

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

- 1.
- 2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

'Dickens is showing us that it is never too late to reform.' To what extent do you agree?

Stave Five, Extract 3: The End

The following extract has been taken from Stave Five: 'The End Of It'. In this extract, Scrooge endeavours to make Bob's life better.

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.

And he did it; yes, he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time. Scrooge sat with his door wide open, that he might see him come into the Tank.

His hat was off, before he opened the door; his comforter too. He was on his stool in a jiffy; driving away with his pen, as if he were trying to overtake nine o'clock.

"Hallo!" growled Scrooge, in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. "What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?"

"I am very sorry, sir," said Bob. "I am behind my time."

"You are?" repeated Scrooge. "Yes. I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please."

"It's only once a year, sir," pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank. "It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir."

"Now, I'll tell you what, my friend," said Scrooge, "I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore," he continued, leaping from his stool, and giving Bob such a dig in the waistcoat that he staggered back into the Tank again; "and therefore I am about to raise your salary!"

Bob trembled, and got a little nearer to the ruler. He had a momentary idea of knocking Scrooge down with it, holding him, and calling to the people in the court for help and a strait-waistcoat.

"A merry Christmas, Bob!" said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. "A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you, for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another coal-scuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit!"

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. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.

He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!

Revision Activities for Extract 3

Summary

In full sentences, briefly explain what is happening in this extract.

Writer's purpose

Pick three analytical verbs. Complete the following sentence three times, each time using a different analytical verb.

Overall, in 'A Christmas Carol', Dickens aims to

criticise/ warn/ expose/ teach/ celebrate/ reveal the importance of/ question/establish

Extract specific questions

Answer the following questions in full sentences. Use quotations where you can to help you explain your points.

1. Scrooge tries to mimic his former voice 'as near as he could feign it'. What does this tell us about the extent of his transformation?
2. Scrooge asks Bob to make up the fires. How does this symbolise change?
3. How does Tiny Tim embody Christian ideals?

Links to other areas of the text

How does this extract mirror other areas of the text?

Themes

Choose two themes from the front of the booklet that relate to this extract and briefly explain your choices.

1.

2.

Extra Challenge task

On a different piece of paper, write an extended response to the following question:

Is the end of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens realistic?

