

Complete the blanks to create a basic PLOT SUMMARY

A Christmas Carol – Fill in the blanks to create a plot outline: The tale begins on Christmas Eve. Scrooge is a _____ and _____ old man. He hates Christmas, calling it "h ". Scrooge is visited by three _____. The first of the spirits, the Ghost of Christmas Past, takes Scrooge to Christmas scenes when he was _____. The second spirit, the Ghost of Christmas _____, takes Scrooge to visit his clerk _____ Cratchit, introducing his youngest son, Tiny Tim, who is full of happiness but is _____. The spirit informs Scrooge that Tiny Tim will die unless the course of events changes. The third spirit, the Ghost of Christmas _____, shows Scrooge on Christmas Day, one year later. _____ has _____ because Cratchit could not afford to look after him. He then shows him a grave with _____ own name on it! Scrooge promises that he will

_____. Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning and



1. **Character List** – Make a list of ALL of the characters, main characters and minor ones. Next to each name, write 100 words to describe who they are, what role they have, how Dickens uses them and why they are in the novel. Finally, write 3 quotations next to each with the relevant page number. EXPLODE all of the quotes.

2. Now, **read** the extracts carefully and separately, and **answer** all of the questions in the tables.

Stave 1 Revision

“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 [to the workhouses] ; 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!”

<p>Who is this conversation with? What does it tell the reader about Scrooge? Where is it from? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens use this conversation to create the character of Scrooge? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>Can you spot any language devices or methods which Dickens uses to teach the reader? Explain the effect of these methods. Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens make the reader feel with his use of language? What events or conversations occur in the novel to teach us about Scrooge and ourselves as people? Give evidence and page numbers.</p>	
<p>Finally, write two possible exam questions which could be used with this extract.</p>	

Stave 1. Revision

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 have 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.

<p>Who is this conversation with? What does it tell the reader about Scrooge? Where is it from? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens use this conversation to create the character of Scrooge? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>Can you spot any language devices or methods which Dickens uses to teach the reader? Explain the effect of these methods. Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens make the reader feel with his use of language? What events or conversations occur in the novel to teach us about Scrooge and ourselves as people? Give evidence and page numbers.</p>	
<p>Finally, write two possible exam questions which could be used with this extract.</p>	

Stave 1 Revision

“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.”

<p>Who is this conversation with? What does it tell the reader about Scrooge? Where is it from? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens use this conversation to create the character of Scrooge? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>Can you spot any language devices or methods which Dickens uses to teach the reader? Explain the effect of these methods. Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens make the reader feel with his use of language? What events or conversations occur in the novel to teach us about Scrooge and ourselves as people? Give evidence and page numbers.</p>	
<p>Finally, write two possible exam questions which could be used with this extract.</p>	

Stave 1 Revision

“Man of the worldly mind!” replied the Ghost, “do you believe in me or not?” “I do,” said Scrooge.

“I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?”

“It is required of every man,” the Ghost returned, “that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- oh, woe is me! -- and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!”

Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain, and wrung its shadowy hands.

“You are fettered,” said Scrooge, trembling. “Tell me why?”

“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.

<p>Who is this conversation with? What does it tell the reader about Scrooge? Where is it from? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens use this conversation to create the character of Scrooge? Give evidence.</p>	
<p>Can you spot any language devices or methods which Dickens uses to teach the reader? Explain the effect of these methods. Give evidence.</p>	
<p>How does Dickens make the reader feel with his use of language? What events or conversations occur in the novel to teach us about Scrooge and ourselves as people? Give evidence and page numbers.</p>	
<p>Finally, write two possible exam questions which could be used with this extract.</p>	

The same can be done with ANY extract from ANY part of the novel. Simply choose an extract, and complete the tables above. ASK your teacher for additional tables or make your own.

Now Stave 2,

How does Charles Dickens create **suspense and tension** in this extract?

When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber. He was endeavouring to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes, when the chimes of a neighbouring church struck the four quarters. So he listened for the hour. To his great astonishment the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight, and regularly up to twelve; then stopped. Twelve! It was past two when he went to bed. The clock was wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. Twelve! He touched the spring of his repeater, to correct this most preposterous clock. Its rapid little pulse beat twelve: and stopped.

“Why, it isn't possible,” said Scrooge, “that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!”

The idea being an alarming one, he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then. All he could make out was, that it was still very foggy and extremely cold, and that there was no noise of people running to and fro, and making a great stir, as there unquestionably would have been if night had beaten off bright day, and taken possession of the world. This was a great relief, because “three days after sight of this First of Exchange pay to Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge or his order,” and so forth, would have become a mere United States' security if there were no days to count by. Scrooge went to bed again, and thought, and thought it over and over, and could make nothing of it. The more he thought, the more perplexed he was; and the more he endeavoured not to think, the more he thought Marley's Ghost bothered him exceedingly. Every time he resolved within himself, after mature inquiry, that it was all a dream, his mind flew back, like a strong spring released, to its first position, and presented the same problem to be worked all through, “Was it a dream or not?” Scrooge lay in this state until the chime had gone three quarters more, when he remembered, on a sudden, that the Ghost had warned him of a visitation when the bell tolled one.

He resolved to lie awake until the hour was past; and, considering that he could no more go to sleep than go to Heaven, this was perhaps the wisest resolution in his power. The quarter was so long, that he was more than once convinced he must have sunk into a doze unconsciously, and missed the clock. At length it broke upon his listening ear.

“Ding, dong!”

“A quarter past,” said Scrooge, counting.

“Ding, dong!”

“Half past!” said Scrooge.

“Ding, dong!” “A quarter to it,” said Scrooge.

“Ding, dong!”

“The hour itself,” said Scrooge, triumphantly, “and nothing else!”

He spoke before the hour bell sounded, which it now did with a deep, dull, hollow, melancholy ONE. Light flashed up in the room upon the instant, and the curtains of his bed were drawn.

Fezziwig's Christmas Party

Give evidence and write in full sentences and in detail.

1. How do Mr and Mrs Fezziwig treat their workers at the end of the party? -----

2. Where do the apprentices sleep? Why does Dickens add this detail? -----

3. How does Scrooge's behaviour change throughout the party? -----

4. What is the ghost's lesson for Scrooge to learn? -----

5. Where do the themes of the Christmas spirit and poverty appear in the party scene? -----

6. What do you think Scrooge would like to say to the clerks? -----

Stave 2 Revision

When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber. He was endeavouring to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes, when the chimes of a neighbouring church struck the four quarters. So he listened for the hour.

To his great astonishment the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight, and regularly up to twelve; then stopped. Twelve! It was past two when he went to bed. The clock was wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. Twelve!

He touched the spring of his repeater, to correct this most preposterous clock. Its rapid little pulse beat twelve: and stopped. "Why, it isn't possible," said Scrooge, "that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!"

The idea being an alarming one, he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then.

Write 3 additional essay questions that could be used to test you on the above extract. Make notes on all 3.

Next, explode the extract below. This means to annotate all of the interesting ideas and key points with concentration on all of the effects Dickens creates on the reader. Look at how the extract is constructed and how it has been created by Dickens. Then, think about the reader and how he/she feels. There is plenty of space for your notes.

Stave 2 Revision

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.

Finally, re-read Stave 3. Additional work will follow for this over the coming weeks.

