

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

This lesson assumes that the class has read the novel.

Learning Objective

To study and explore the portrayal and development of a major character in a novel

Text Level Work – Whole class shared reading 10 mins

- Read through extract 1.
- Discuss the image/picture suggested by this description.
- Ask the class to think of any examples of Scrooge's behaviour that could serve as evidence to support this description.

Word/Sentence Level Work – Whole Class 10 mins

- Ask class to identify words and phrases that are particularly effective.
- Annotate adjectives / adverbs / similes / metaphors etc. on OHT.
- Discuss the effect of using lists of words
- Draw up a list on the board (or on an OHT) of all the negative words and phrases.

Group Work 20 mins

Group A

1. Read the second extract and taking each section in turn, discuss how it compares to the characteristics and actions described in the first extract. Try to find contrasting examples from each extract.
2. Write a description of Scrooge, in modern English, as he was at the beginning and then a contrasting paragraph for how he was at the end of the novel. Quote where possible to support your writing.

Groups B,C,D

1. Read the second extract and write a list of all the positive words and phrases used to describe Scrooge.
2. Write a description of Scrooge, in modern English, as he was at the beginning and then a contrasting paragraph for how he was at the end of the novel.

Group E

1. Use the worksheet provided. Match the phrases taken from the 1st extract to their modern equivalent.
2. Use some of the modern phrases and some of your own ideas, write a description of Scrooge as he was at the beginning of the novel.

Plenary – 10 mins

Mark Group E work.

Hear descriptions from other groups.

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Group A

1. Read the second extract and compare it to the 1st extract. Look at the 4 sections in Extract 2 and find contrasting examples for Scrooge's behaviour from Extract 1.

	Extract 1	Extract 2
1		
2		
3		
4		

2. Write a description of Scrooge, in modern English, as he was at the beginning and then a contrasting paragraph for how he was at the end of the novel. Quote where possible to support your writing.

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Groups B,C,D

1. Read the second extract and write a list of all the positive words and phrases used to describe Scrooge.
2. Write a description of Scrooge, in modern English, as he was at the beginning and then a contrasting paragraph for how he was at the end of the novel.

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Group E

1. The phrases on the left are from the 1st extract. Match them up with the modern meanings on the left.

Oh! but he was a tight fisted hand at the grindstone.

He kept himself to himself

The cold within him froze his old features.

In his whole life, no one had ever asked him for directions.

stiffened his gait even

He was so cold-hearted that he looked cold.

External heat and cold had made little influence on Scrooge time.

He was such a mean man who everyone work really hard all the

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, 'My dear Scrooge, how are you?'

An evil greedy mean man.

Spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice

He walked as if he were stiff.

No wind that blew was bitterer him, than he.

No one was ever pleased to see or said hello in the street.

A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner.

He was meaner and more spiteful than the coldest wind you can imagine.

Secret and self contained and like, solitary as an oyster.

No matter what the weather was Scrooge never changed.

No man or woman ever in all croaky his life inquired the way to such and such a place of Scrooge.

When he spoke, he sounded and mean.

2. Using some of the modern phrases and some of your own ideas, write a description of Scrooge as he was at the beginning of the novel.

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Character Description of Scrooge

Paragraph 1

- Explain who Scrooge is and what he does for a living.
e.g. at the beginning of the book Scrooge is...
- Describe his work place, his home and his habits, what he has for tea.

Paragraph 2

- Describe how he treats Bob Cratchit.
e.g. A good example of how mean he is can be found in the way he treats his clerk...
- Describe what other people think of him: the charity workers, the children, the blind men's dogs or even the woman who tries to sell his clothes in the episode with The Ghost of Christmas in the Future. (You could quote her words if you wish.)

Paragraph 3

- Describe who Marley is and what he warns Scrooge about. What is the lesson he needs to learn?
e.g. Scrooge is told by the ghost of his business partner that he must...

Paragraph 4

- Briefly summarise the visits of the three Ghosts, concentrating on the effect they have on Scrooge.
e.g. The Ghost of Christmas Past reminds Scrooge of how he had been happy once and makes him wonder.....
The Ghost of Christmas Present makes him realise how you don't need money to have some of the best things in life...
And finally, the Ghost of Christmas in the Future shows Scrooge what might happen if....
Scrooge feels guilty/ frightened/ashamed.

Paragraph 5

- Explain how Scrooge has changed at the end of the novel.
e.g. When Scrooge wakes up the next morning he is....
- Describe some of the things he does that show us how much he has changed. Find a quotation to support your comments.

Paragraph 6

- Explain what you think Scrooge has learnt from all this and say what you think Dickens' message to us all was.
e.g. I think that Dickens was trying to teach us all that....