

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Vocabulary List

Below is a list of more complex words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

blindman's bluff	A game whereby one player is blindfolded and spun around until disorientated; the rest of the players spread out and if touched by them, must take on the blindfold themselves.
clerk	a person who keeps records and accounts and does other administration work
flint	a hard grey rock
humbug	a general exclamation of displeasure and bitterness
solemn	not cheerful or smiling; serious

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Plot Sequencing Answer Sheet

1. Ebenezer Scrooge is a greedy old man who hates Christmas.
2. One Christmas eve, Scrooge is haunted by the ghost of Jacob Marley, his old business partner, who tells him that three ghosts will pay him a visit.
3. The first ghost takes Scrooge back in time and shows him the people he lost as he became a greedy businessman.
4. The second ghost shows Scrooge how Bob Cratchit and his family spend Christmas despite the small salary Scrooge pays him, and how his nephew Fred celebrates a joyous Christmas.
5. The third ghost shows Scrooge a future where he is dead and nobody misses him. Scrooge realises he can change this future.
6. Scrooge wakes up on Christmas Day in good spirits. He generously buys Bob Cratchit the biggest turkey from the butcher's shop and spends the day with Fred and his family.
7. The next day Scrooge offers Bob Cratchit a pay rise and becomes a better friend, a better employer and a better man.

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Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

Q1: What is Scrooge's relationship with Jacob Marley?	
Answer:	Jacob was Scrooge's business partner but he has been dead for seven years now.
Q2: Why did Fred visit Scrooge at work on Christmas eve?	
Answer:	To invite Scrooge (his uncle) to spend Christmas Day with him and his family.
Q3: What was attached to Jacob's chains and what do these things mean?	
Answer:	Cash boxes, keys and padlocks, account books and heavy steel purses; these make up the things that mattered to Jacob, not other people, kindness or forgiveness, but cash boxes, purses and account books. He warns that Scrooge is creating the same chain.
Q4: Who did Scrooge learn business from and how are the two businessmen different?	
Answer:	Mr Fezziwig; he was always cheerful, generous and celebrated Christmas with his neighbours and family, whereas Scrooge is mean, grumpy and hates Christmas.
Q5: How do you think Scrooge felt when he saw how others spend Christmas Day and the things they were saying about him?	
Answer:	It would make Scrooge sad to hear how little everyone thinks of him; Scrooge sees how Christmas is about family and generosity and how it doesn't matter how rich or wealthy you are.
Q6: Look at the illustrations of the three ghosts. What does each ghost represent and how are these shown?	
Answer:	Spirit 1 is small like a child; it represents Scrooge as a child before he became a mean and greedy businessman. Spirit 2 is grand and joyous; it represents the celebration of Christmas and a big feast. Spirit 3 is dark and ominous; it personifies death as the Grim Reaper.
Q7: In the end, how did Scrooge change the way people thought of him?	
Answer:	He spends Christmas with his nephew and gives Bob Cratchit a pay rise. He becomes a better friend, a better employer and a better man. It soon becomes known that Ebenezer Scrooge knows how to celebrate Christmas the right way - with love, laughter and generosity (like Mr Fezziwig).

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Diary Entry Activity

The story is told by a third person narrator. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Scrooge's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in *A Christmas Carol* from the list below and ask your class to write it from Oliver's point of view.

- Scrooge's visit by the first spirit
- Scrooge's visit by the second spirit
- Scrooge's visit by the third spirit
- Scrooge waking up on Christmas Day with new intentions
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The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character