

Stave 2 - Knowledge Organiser

Key Themes:

- Isolation
- Family
- Redemption
- Responsibility



Key Characters:

Fan – Scrooge’s younger sister, Fred’s mother, who rescues him from school in his childhood.

Fezziwig – Scrooge’s first employer, generous and warm and the antithesis of Scrooge.

Belle – Scrooge’s ex-fiancee who broke off the engagement because of Scrooge’s obsession with money.

Plot summary:

- Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past who takes him to witness his past.
- Scrooge is taken to his schoolboy years and is reminded how his friends would go home for Christmas while he was left at school alone. He is reminded of how unhappy and lonely he was.
- We see him with his sister, who one year took him home for the holidays.
- Next, we are shown Scrooge as a young apprentice, working for Fezziwig. Dickens describes the Christmas ball Fezziwig organised for his employees
- Finally, Scrooge is taken to see his ex-fiancée, Belle. We see the scene when they break up, as money has taken over Scrooge’s life. Scrooge cannot bear to see any more and struggles with the spirit.

- **THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** Contradictory, strong, gentle, quiet, forceful, questioning, mysterious, ephemeral.
- This spirit personifies what Scrooge has been. It takes Scrooge on a journey to see his past Christmases and forces him to reflect on his past. Some of the scenes the ghost presents are painful for Scrooge, others remind him of happier times.
- Scrooge is encouraged to reflect on how he adopted the negative emotions, actions and ideas of his later years.
- Appears as a strange figure – an old man and a child combined. This serves as a reminder that our past actions and experiences help to form the person we will become in the future. Whilst it may be long gone, our past is a part of our identity.
- The white tunic the ghost wears represents the innocence that should be a part of childhood. It is also decorated with summer flowers, a reminder that his spirit represents Scrooge’s ‘summer’ years. The “fresh green holly” suggests that change is possible for Scrooge,
- Although Scrooge attempts to extinguish the ghost’s light with its own cap, the light cannot be put out. The light symbolises seeing the truth. Scrooge must revisit his past to light up the dark shadows that have caused his misery. Without illuminating his past, Scrooge cannot redeem himself in the present.

Quotes:

- “like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man.”
- “Would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give?” **Ghost of Christmas Past**
- “To hear Scrooge... in a most extraordinary voice between laughing and crying...would have been a surprise to his business friends in the city, indeed.”
- "A small matter," said the Ghost, "to make these silly folks so full of gratitude."
- “Another idol has displaced me... Our contract is an old one... You *are* changed.” **Belle**
- "Remove me!" Scrooge exclaimed, "I cannot bear it!"
- “though Scrooge pressed it down with all his force, he could not hide the light...”

Key Terms:

- ephemeral – lasting only a short time
- contradictory – neither one thing or another
- illuminating – shining light on
- idol – a person or thing admired intensely
- empathy - the ability to understand and share in someone else’s feelings
- extinguish – to put out a fire or light

Learn the information on the sheet – self quiz to help you retain the knowledge . Tick the boxes when you think your knowledge is secure.