

Stave 3 - Knowledge Organiser

Key Themes:

- The spirit of Christmas
- Family
- Redemption
- Responsibility



Key Characters:

The Cratchit Family:

The Christmas celebrations of the Cratchits show the benefits of sharing laughter and optimism. Despite their poverty, the Cratchit family are shown as the model happy family.

Bob's 'sudden declension in... high spirits' when he thinks Martha can't come home for Christmas shows us the need for families to be together at key times.

The closeness the Cratchit family have supports them in dealing with the foreshadowed death of Tiny Tim.

The transformed Scrooge revels in being part of his own and the Cratchit family.

Plot summary:

- Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present.
- The spirit shows Scrooge how the Cratchit family celebrate Christmas. Scrooge learns that Tiny Tim will die unless the future changes. The spirit reminds Scrooge of his earlier words: 'If he is to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population'
- Scrooge is then taken to see how others celebrate Christmas: miners, lighthouse workers and sailors on a ship.
- He is then taken to Fred's house where they are playing games. They discuss Scrooge and Fred is full of pity for him.
- The spirit reveals two children hidden under his robes: Want and Ignorance. The Ghost explains that they belong to Man and warns Scrooge to beware of them both, but especially to beware of Ignorance.
- The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT:

- Compassionate, abundant, generous, cheerful, jolly, friendly, severe, sympathetic, prophetic.
- This ghost's function is to illustrate what life is like for different people in Victorian Britain at Christmas and to compare this with Scrooge's previously declared views.
- The spirit provides Dickens with a mouthpiece to show the importance of education, declaring that ignorance is more dangerous than poverty.
- The Ghost of Christmas Present personifies generosity, both spiritual and material. The Spirit reminds us of the importance of social responsibility.
- The ghost is surrounded by plenty and sitting on a throne of food, this emphasises that there is enough to go around in the world.
- Despite the ghost's pleasant appearance, it conceals the harsh realities of Victorian life in the shape of the children, Ignorance and Want.

Quotes:

- "who bore a glowing torch...and held up...to shed its light on Scrooge."
- "the spirit's eyes were clear and kind"
- "if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it"
- "Not coming!" said Bob, with a sudden declension in his high spirits"
- "There never was such a goose."
- "They are man's...This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want."
- "Have they no refuge or resource?"



Key Terms:

- redemptive – having the power to save
- celebratory – exciting and fun
- transition – moving from one thing to another
- abundant – having plenty
- exude – display strongly
- prophetic – able to foretell the future

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