LITHERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

LIVO CATCH-UP 10
A Christmas Carol



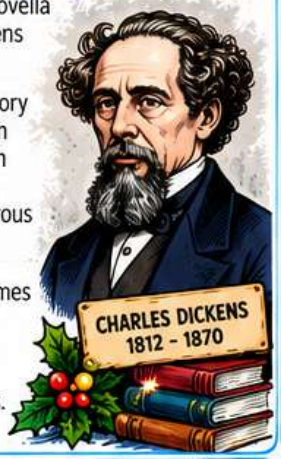
You have missed some lessons. Don't worry – this will give you the essential knowledge you need to join back in.

1 WHAT IS A CHRISTMAS CAROL?

A Christmas Carol is a novella written by Charles Dickens in 1843.

It is a moral and social story about the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a selfish, miserable man into a kinder, more generous person.

The novella explores themes such as poverty, social responsibility, kindness, redemption and the importance of Christmas.



2 KEY CONTEXT

- Written in 1843 during the **Victorian era.**
- Many poor people lived in harsh conditions, especially in industrial towns.
- Child labour was common and workhouses were used.
- Dickens wanted to highlight the suffering of the poor and encourage middle and upper classes to be more compassionate.
- The novella was published at Christmas to remind people of the importance of kindness, generosity and community.



3 MAIN CHARACTERS



Ebenezer Scrooge
A cold, selfish and miserly businessman who changes during the novella.





Bob Cratchit
Scrooge's kind and hard-working clerk.



Tiny Tim
Bob's young son, who is ill but hopeful and symbolic of innocence.



The Ghosts
The Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.





Fred
Scrooge's cheerful and generous nephew.

4 THE PLOT – KEY EVENTS

1. Scrooge is introduced as a miser.
2. Marley's ghost warns Scrooge to change.
3. The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge his childhood and lost happiness.
4. The Ghost of Christmas Present shows the Cratchits and the wider community.
5. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows a bleak future if Scrooge does not change.
6. Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning.
7. He has been transformed.
8. He gives generously to the Cratchtis.
9. He becomes a kinder, more compassionate man.
10. The novella ends with Scrooge's new life.



5 KEY THEMES

- KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY
- POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY
- CHRISTMAS AND THE SPIRIT OF GIVING
- REDEMPTION AND CHANGE
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
- TIME AND MORTALITY
- GREED AND SELFISHNESS
- HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

6 KEY QUOTES

"Bah! Humbug!" (Scrooge)	Shows Scrooge's negative attitude towards Christmas.
"Solitary as an oyster." (Scrooge)	Shows Scrooge's isolation and lack of human connection.
"These are the chains I forged." (Marley)	Shows that Scrooge is responsible for his own suffering.
"Another idol has displaced me." (Scrooge)	Shows Scrooge realises that money has replaced love and human relationships.
"A jolly giant." (Ghost of Christmas Present)	Shows the Ghost's warm, life-loving and generous personality.
"Look upon me!" (Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come)	A powerful and frightening moment that makes Scrooge confront the future.
"Light as a feather." (Scrooge)	Shows Scrooge's joy and new sense of freedom at the end.
"I'll raise your salary." (Scrooge)	Shows Scrooge's practical change and new generosity.
"A second father." (Tiny Tim)	Shows Tiny Tim's love and gratitude for Scrooge.

7 LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURE

- Dickens uses vivid description to create strong images of Victorian London and its contrasting worlds.
- Repetition (e.g. "Bah! Humbug!") emphasises Scrooge's attitude and later his change.
- Contrast is used between Scrooge's coldness and the warmth of the Cratchit family.
- The three ghosts create a clear structure, taking Scrooge on a journey from the past, to the present, to a possible future.
- Symbolism is used (e.g. light vs. darkness, cold vs. warmth) to represent change and hope.

8 WRITER'S METHODS

Imagery	Creates vivid pictures (e.g. cold, dark London).
Symbolism	Represents bigger ideas (e.g. light = hope).
Contrast	Highlights differences (e.g. Scrooge vs. Cratchits).
Repetition	Emphasises key ideas (e.g. "Humbug").
Characterisation	Shows characters' traits and change.
Foreshadowing	Hints at future events (e.g. Marley's warnings).
Juxtaposition	Places opposites together to create impact.

9 KEY VOCABULARY

Novella	a short novel
Victorian era	the time period (1837–1901)
Redemption	being forgiven or making amends
Miser	a person who is very stingy
Benevolent	kind and generous
Compassion	a strong feeling of sympathy
Inequality	unfairness
Philanthropy	the desire to help others
Transformation	a complete change
Morality	a sense of right and wrong
Empatty	understanding how others feel
Generosity	unllingness to give
Isolation	being alone or excluded
Community	a group of people living together

10 YOUR CATCH-UP 10

Answer these without looking back.

1. Who wrote A Christmas Carol and when was it published?
2. Give two key events from the plot.
3. Name the three ghosts.
4. What is the main message of the novella?
5. Give two key themes.
6. Which character says "Bah! Humbug!"?
7. What does the quote "Solitary as an oyster." suggest about Scrooge?
8. Give one example of symbolism in the novella.
9. How does Dickens use contrast?
10. What does Scrooge's final change show about the importance of kindness?

FINAL CHECK

I now know:

- ☐ the plot and key events
- ☐ the main characters
- ☐ the key themes and messages
- ☐ important quotes and what they show
- ☐ the writer's methods and effects
- ☐ key vocabulary and its meanings
- ☐ how to write a P.E.E.L. paragraph
- ☐ and I feel ready to rejoin the lesson!



NOW I'M READY TO REJOIN THE LESSON!