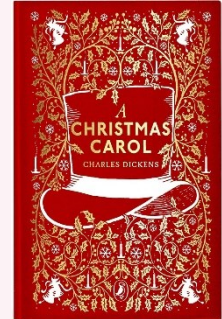




TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL By Charles Dickens



"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

GENRE

Classic Literature

Novella

THEMES

Generosity

Regret

Greed

Moral Responsibility

The Christmas Spirit

Moral Responsibility: The obligation we have to help our fellow humans.

CHARACTERS

Ebenezer Scrooge

Scrooge is a cold-hearted, uncaring, greedy man who despises the poor, lives only for himself, and spares no time or thought for others. He is described as solitary, tight-fisted, hard and sharp.

Bob Cratchit

Bob Cratchit is Scrooge's clerk. He is a kind, meek, but very poor man with a large family and a disabled son. Though treated harshly by Scrooge, Bob remains a humble and dedicated employee.

Tiny Tim

Tim is Bob Cratchit's young son, who has a disability from birth. Despite his struggles, Tim remains a joyful little soul.

Jacob Marley

Marley, while alive, was Scrooge's equally greedy business partner. Marley is the first ghost who appears to Scrooge, with warnings of doom should Scrooge continue on his current path.

The Ghost of Christmas Past

The Ghost of Christmas Past is the first spirit to visit Scrooge. A bright and unusually child-like spirit, this ghost journeys with Scrooge through his childhood.

The Ghost of Christmas Present

The Ghost of Christmas Present is the second spirit to visit Scrooge. He is a majestic spirit, representing generosity and goodwill. He takes Scrooge to visit holiday celebrations full of joy, peace, love and kindness.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, is the third and final spirit to visit Scrooge. This spirit is a silent phantom dressed ominously in a hooded black robe. He presents Scrooge with his gloomy and lonely future, what will come to pass if Scrooge refuses to change his actions.

STORYLINE

Scrooge is a cold-hearted, uncaring, greedy man who despises the poor, lives only for himself, and spares no time or thought for others. He miserably runs his accountant business as a harsh master, especially during Christmastime when he expects his poor and underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, to continue working long hours. Scrooge's life is radically transformed after visits from three spirits of Christmas. As Scrooge journeys through the past, present and future with the spirits, he decides it's time to stop living only for himself and instead embrace his moral obligation to others.

This is a powerful redemption story and one man's journey of overcoming greed and selfishness while learning what it truly means to embrace the Spirit of Christmas!

1 QUESTION ONE

Scrooge is described as being “tight-fisted... A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.” How would you describe Scrooge’s character?

2 QUESTION TWO

Discuss the three spirits which visit Scrooge and what they each represent. How do they help Scrooge realise his sin and embrace a Christmas spirit?

3 QUESTION THREE

Scrooge is haunted by regret. Which event in his life seems to haunt Scrooge most?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Marley realises too late that “mankind was his business”. Why do you think that we have a moral obligation to help others?

5 QUESTION FIVE

Greed and generosity are important themes in the story. Why do you think those who have the most are the greediest? While those who have the least are the most generous? Discuss how this is represented in the story.

6 QUESTION SIX

Why is Tiny Tim such a crucial character in the story?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

Scrooge says, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach." How is this story one of redemption?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

What do you think it means to keep a "Christmas Spirit"?

9 QUESTION NINE

Are we supposed to identify with Scrooge, or are we supposed to be relieved to realise that we're not like him? How does this book encourage self-reflection and activism?
