

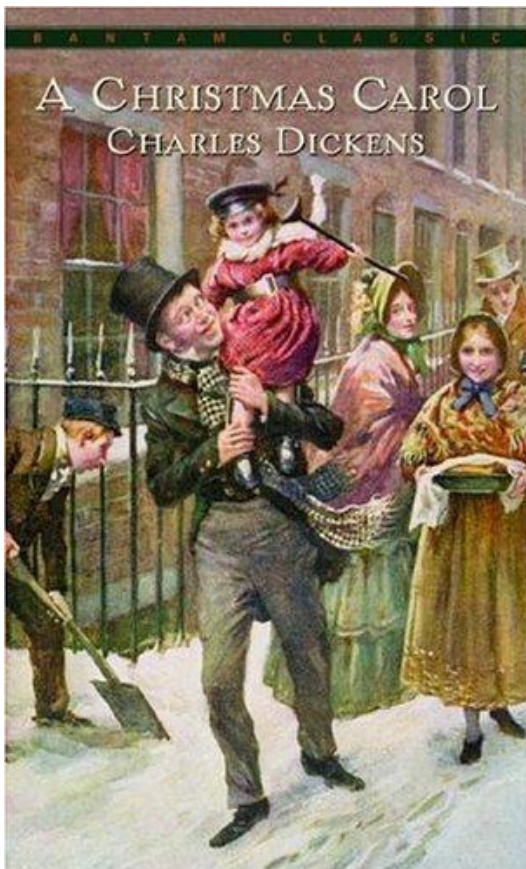
Name: _____

COMPREHENSION QUESTION PACKET

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

(CHARLES DICKENS)



A Christmas Carol COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS STAVE ONE



Answer all questions using **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**

PROLOGUE & CHAPTER 1

1. Describe the relationship between Scrooge and Marley.

2. What is Scrooge's job? If he were alive today, what type of job do you think he would have? Why?

3. On p. 9 it says that it has been 7 years since Marley had died but the sign at the office still read "Scrooge and Marley". Why do you think that Scrooge didn't bother to change the sign?

4. On p. 10 it states that Scrooge loaned people money but they had to pay back an exorbitant fee. What does the word exorbitant mean?

5. Why do you think that Scrooge refused to allow more than one piece of coal to be on the burner at a time?

6. What do the “portly gentlemen” want?

7. Describe Scrooge’s attitude toward the poor and the unfortunate? Provide a quote of Scrooge’s that sums up his attitude.

8. On p. 20, Scrooge smiles when the man from the charity mentions that many people would rather die than go to prison or union workhouses. Why do you think Scrooges smiled at the mention of this?

9. How does Scrooge treat his clerk? How does he respond to his clerk's request for Christmas day off?

10. How would you characterize Cratchit based on the fact that he chose to go sledding with the children down the snowy hill?

11. Why do you think Scrooge's house has gone from beautiful to rundown and filthy?

12. What strange incident happens to Scrooge as he reaches his house? What does it indicate?

13. Foreshadowing is the process of the author hinting at something that will be happening next in the story. What do the shadows transforming themselves into a terrifying image foreshadow? (p. 26)

14. On p. 27 it says that Scrooge ate a plate of gruel. Why do you think that Scrooge constantly eats low quality food?

15. Why is it ironic that there are images of people from the bible on the tiles of Scrooge's floor?

CHAPTER 2

1. Describe Marley's ghost – provide both a physical and emotional description.

2. On p. 33, Marley's Ghost has cashboxes, ledgers, and other things from the business attached to him with chains. What do the things attached to the chains symbolize?

3. What does Scrooge think has caused this ghost to appear? Why does Scrooge doubt that Marley's ghost is actually in front of him?

4. What does Marley tell Scrooge he's been doing in the seven years since his death?

5. Based upon the interaction Scrooge is having with Marley's ghost and what we know about Marley, what type of relationship do you think they had when Marley was alive?

6. What do Marley's chains represent?

7. What warning does Marley give to Scrooge?

8. What emotions has Scrooge felt during Marley's visit? What is his mood like after Marley leaves?

A Christmas Carol COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

STAVE TWO

Answer all questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**



Dickens

CHAPTER 3

1. Why is it ironic that Scrooge chose to pray when he was nervous/frightened?

2. Describe the appearance of the first spirit.

3. What was the strangest thing about the way the spirit looked?

4. What is the first spirit called? What does this spirit symbolize?

5. How does Scrooge initially react to the Spirit? What is his attitude?

6. On p. 49 Scrooge begins to cry but is quickly embarrassed. Why do you think he was embarrassed to cry? Why do you think he began to cry?

7. What part of his past does the spirit show to Scrooge first?

8. What do you learn about Scrooge when his sister, Fan, visits him at school?

9. What kind of people are the Fezziwigs? Describe them in all aspects.

10. Contrast Scrooge's old Christmas celebrations with those of the Fezziwigs.

A Christmas Carol COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



- Answer all questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**

11. Why does Belle end her relationship with Scrooge? What does she say to him?

12. What does Scrooge regret as he watches each scene from the past unfold?

13. How does Scrooge try to “extinguish the light”? Does he succeed?

14. What does the light symbolize?

15. How has Scrooge changed after the visit by the Ghost of Christmas Past?

STAVE 3

CHAPTER 4

1. What first alerts Scrooge to the presence of the second spirit? How does he respond?

2. When the second spirit invites Scrooge into the room, what does Scrooge find there?

3. Describe the second spirit physically.

4. Describe the personality of the second spirit.

5. What does the spirit mean when it says it has more than eighteen hundred brothers?

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Answer all questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**

6. Where does the Ghost of Christmas Present take Scrooge on the first part of their journey? What do they see?

7. What do you think is going through Scrooge's mind as he looks down at the Cratchit household? Take the first person perspective and describe what Scrooge is thinking.

8. Describe the Cratchits' reaction to their Christmas feast. What does their celebration show Scrooge?

9. What does the spirit predict will happen to Tiny Tim? How does Scrooge respond?

10. What toast does Bob Cratchit make to the surprise of Scrooge and the regret of Mrs. Cratchit? Why does Cratchit make this toast? Why is it surprising?

11. Why does Fred continue to see his uncle?

12. How does the spirit change as the night progresses? Why does the spirit change?

13. Describe the two children that emerge from the second spirit's robes.

14. What do they symbolize? How are they "man's children?"

15. How does Scrooge change as a result of his visit with the Ghost of Christmas Present?

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- Answer all questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**
STAVE 4

CHAPTER 5

1. Describe the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. In what ways is this spirit very different from those that came before? What does this spirit lack that the others had? Why do you think it lacks this quality?

2. What is Scrooge's reaction to this spirit? Is his reaction the same or different from the other spirits?

3. What does the spirit show Scrooge first? What are the men talking about?

4. What does Scrooge keep looking for during this part of the journey?

5. Who are the people at Old Joe's Scavenger Shop and what are they doing?

6. Does anyone care about the dead man in the bedroom? Why?

7. Scrooge asks the spirit to show him tenderness connected to a death. What does the spirit show him?

8. Scrooge's last request is to know what shall become of him in the days ahead. What does the spirit show him? How does Scrooge respond to what he is shown?

9. What is the lesson Scrooge learns in this stave that he had not learned before?

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Answer all questions in **COMPLETE SENTENCES!!!!**

10. Why is this stave necessary when Scrooge has already changed so much?

11. What does Scrooge promise the spirit?

12. Why do you think the author chose to have the Ghost of Christmas Future not speak during the entire scene?

13. What do you think has been the most influential vision that Scrooge has seen in the book thus far?

STAVE 5

CHAPTER 6 & EPILOGUE

1. When Scrooge finds himself in his bedchamber, he lets out a gleeful cheer. At the beginning of the book, what do you think Scrooge's reaction would have been?

2. How does Scrooge feel when he realizes the visits are over?

3. What actions does Scrooge take to make amends for the past?

4. How does Scrooge reconcile with Fred, his nephew?

5. Describe Scrooge's interaction with Bob Cratchit at his office. What is Bob's response?

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6. What lesson has Scrooge learned?

7. What type of a person is Scrooge at the end of the story?

8. Re-write the ending of Scrooge's life if the spirits had never come to visit him. How would it have been similar? How would it have been different?
