

**Charles Dickens: *A Christmas Carol***

Read this extract from *A Christmas Carol* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge is being shown the vision of the future where the Cratchit family have lost Tiny Tim..

She hurried out to meet him; and little Bob in his comforter—he had need of it, poor fellow—came in. His tea was ready for him on the hob, and they all tried who should help him to it most. Then the two young Cratchits got upon his knees and laid, each child a little cheek, against his face, as if they said, “Don’t mind it, father. Don’t be grieved!”

Bob was very cheerful with them, and spoke pleasantly to all the family. He looked at the work upon the table, and praised the industry and speed of Mrs. Cratchit and the girls. They would be done long before Sunday, he said.

“Sunday! You went to-day, then, Robert?” said his wife.

“Yes, my dear,” returned Bob. “I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you’ll see it often. I promised him that I would walk there on a Sunday. My little, little child!” cried Bob. “My little child!”

He broke down all at once. He couldn’t help it. If he could have helped it, he and his child would have been farther apart perhaps than they were.

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Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present the Cratchit family in *A Christmas Carol*?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents the family and their thoughts/feelings in this extract
- how Dickens presents the family in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

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