

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

1

1 At three o'clock in the afternoon on Christmas Eve.
 2 Marley. 3 He is an old man. His face is thin and his nose is long and thin. His hair, eyebrows and whiskers are all white.
 4 Scrooge likes money. He likes writing down amounts of money in his account books. He does not like people.

2

1 The fire in his room is very small. Only one tiny piece of coal is burning. 2 A young man. He is Scrooge's nephew. He has come to wish his uncle a merry Christmas and to invite Scrooge to dinner on Christmas day. 3 Scrooge does not like Christmas, he does not like people and he does not want to see his nephew's family at Christmas. 4 A gentleman who has come to ask for money to help the poor people. 5 He thinks that the poor should be in prisons and workhouses. And he does not want to give away any of his money. He does not have a merry Christmas. And he does not want to give anyone else money so they can have a merry Christmas. 6 Everyone wants to buy good food for Christmas Day. 7 People are singing Christmas carols.

3

1 Tonight it is different. He looks closely and he sees Marley's face in the middle of the knocker. 2 Marley's face in the flames of the fire. 3 Scrooge hears a clanking, banging noise. And it is getting louder. 4 He is Jacob Marley. There is a cloth tied round his face and chin. And there are huge iron chains round his body and on the floor behind him.

4

1 'I made these chains for myself when I was alive.' 2 To try to help Scrooge. He wants him to be good and kind. Then Scrooge will not have to travel around the world for ever when he is dead. 3 Three ghosts will come to see him. 4 Many ghosts in the sky. They are carrying heavy chains and they are crying and shouting.

5

1 A hand pulls back the curtains around Scrooge's bed. 2 Another ghost. 3 It changes all the time. But it is wearing a long white robe and carries a branch of holly. A bright light is coming out of the top of its head, and under its arm it carries a big pointed cap. 4 The Ghost of Christmas Past.

6

1 To the town where Scrooge lived when he was a boy. He can see some boys he knew when he was young. He feels happy, then afraid, then happy again. Then he feels sad. 2 It is Scrooge himself. 3 Scrooge and his sister, Frances. 4 She became a kind woman. She had a son, but she died long ago.

7

1 Mr Fezziwig. Scrooge worked for him when he was young. 2 Scrooge, as a young man. And his friend, Dick Wilkins. 3 It is Christmas Eve. Fezziwig says, 'No more work tonight, boys.' And they have a party. 4 The ghost is talking about Fezziwig. Scrooge says that the people who worked for him liked him. This was because he was able to make them happy or unhappy. Fezziwig chose to make them happy.

8

1 She is a girl Scrooge loved once. They were engaged to be married. The man she is talking to is Scrooge himself. 2 They are talking about breaking their engagement.

3 They see another beautiful young girl. She is Belle's oldest daughter. And they see Belle's other children. Then they see Belle and her husband. Belle's husband says that Scrooge's partner, Jacob Marley, had died that day. He says that now Scrooge has no friends, no family and is sitting all alone in his office. Scrooge is very unhappy.

9

1 Room next to his bedroom. 2 He is a huge smiling man. He holds a big torch like an animal's horn. He has a kind face. His hair is long and brown and wears a long green and white robe. Round his head there are leaves from a holly tree. 3 The streets full of people. There are people coming out of churches and going home to eat their Christmas dinners. Some people are taking their dinners to the bakers' shops to cook them in the bakers' big ovens. 4 The Ghost carries his torch in his hand. Most of the people they see are happy. When they see someone who is sad or angry the Ghost stops. He waves the torch over their heads. Then they are happy too.

10

1 Seven – Bob's wife and their six children. 2 Bob Cratchit with Tiny Tim, his youngest child. 3 To bring the goose which is cooking in the baker's oven. 4 Tiny Tim is weak and ill. Bob is poor and he has no money to pay a doctor. He is worried that Tiny Tim will die soon. 5 The Ghost says that the boy will die.

11

1 They go to a place where miners live; out over the sea to a lighthouse; farther out to sea where there is a ship. Then they go to Scrooge's nephew's house. 2 Fred, his nephew, and Fred's wife. Fred's wife's sisters, and a friend called Mr Topper are there too. 3 Fred says it. He says he feels sorry for Scrooge. He knows that Scrooge is not happy. So he will say 'Merry Christmas' to him every year. And he will ask him to come to dinner every year. 4 Scrooge and the Ghost see two poor children. Scrooge is sad. He says, 'Children need homes.' But the Ghost says the words which Scrooge had said on Christmas Eve. He had said them to the gentleman who asked him for money to help poor people. 5 Scrooge sees something coming towards him. It is another ghost. It is dressed in black.

12

1 He has only been a little afraid of the first and second ghosts. They have been friendly. But this third ghost does not look friendly at all. It does not speak to Scrooge, it just points at him. And he cannot see its face. 2 The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. 3 Another businessman who has died. 4 To sell things. They have taken them from a dead man's house. 5 He knows there is a dead body under the sheet. He does not want to see it.

13

1 To Bob Cratchit's house. 2 Tiny Tim. 3 A grave. It is Scrooge's own grave. 4 He promises to live a better life, to care about people and to care about Christmas. He says he will think about the Past, the Present and the Future.

14

1 He feels very, very happy. 2 It is Christmas Day. 3 To Bob Cratchit. 4 The gentleman who had asked him for money on Christmas Eve. 5 His nephew, Fred. 6 No. He says he is going to raise Bob's wages. 7 Student's own answer.