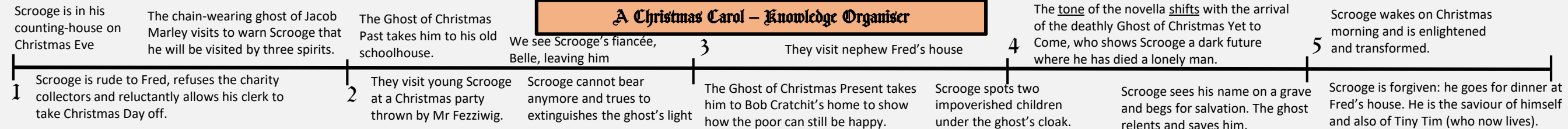
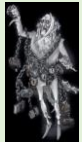









# A Christmas Carol – Knowledge Organiser



Stave	Key Quotation	Info / Analysis
<b>Stave One</b> <b>Marley's Ghost</b> 	Hard and sharp as flint solitary as an oyster	Description of Scrooge at start Simile to convey his lone existence
	"I don't make myself merry at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry."	Shows his unsympathetic attitude to the poor ('idle') people.
	"It's enough for a man to mind his own business, and not to interfere with other people's."	He is obsessed with business and money.
	"I wear the chain I forged in life" <i>Jacob Marley</i>	A warning for Scrooge: Marley created his own eternal punishment through his greed.
	"There is no light part of my penance" <i>Jacob Marley</i>	Penance = punishment
<b>Stave Two</b> <b>Ghost of Christmas Past</b> 	From the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light	Refers to Ghost of Christmas Past. The light represents truth and enlightenment
	"Your reclamation, then. Take heed!" <i>Ghost of Xmas Past</i>	Reclamation = recovery / change Take heed = listen and learn
	"Your lip is trembling," said the Ghost. "And what is that upon your cheek?"	Scrooge visits his old schoolhouse and first shows emotion (self-pity).
	A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still	Description of Scrooge as a child. How has his childhood affected him?
	"He has the power to render us happy or unhappy [...] The happiness he gives is quite as much as if it cost a fortune."	Scrooge speaking of Fezziwig's generosity. He realises how an employer can affect his employees.
<b>Stave Three</b> <b>Ghost of Christmas Present</b> 	"I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you."	Scrooge's ex-fiancée (Belle) when she leaves him, because he is obsessed with 'Gain'.
	"Remove me!" Scrooge exclaimed. "I cannot bear it!"	Scrooge, just before extinguishing the ghost's light (he can't bear the truth).
	Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit	Scrooge is more subdued when he meets the second ghost (Ghost of Xmas Present).
	"Oh no, kind Spirit! Say he will be spared"	Scrooge shows concern and sympathy for Tiny Tim.
	"To hear the insect on the leaf pronouncing on the too much life amongst his hungry brother in the dust!"	The Ghost reminds Scrooge of his earlier words about decreasing the population of the poor. He compares Scrooge to an insect.
<b>Stave Four</b> <b>Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come</b> 	"I am sorry for him [...] Who suffers by his ill whims? Himself, always."	Fred discusses his Uncle Scrooge with the family.
	Uncle Scrooge had imperceptibly become so gay and light of heart	Scrooge is delighted that his family even speak of him.
	"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both."	The ghost warns Scrooge with <b>personification</b> / <b>symbols</b> of mankind's faults.
	plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for, was the body of this man	Description of the man on the deathbed.
	Avarice, hard dealing, griping cares? They have brought him to a rich end, truly!	Scrooge's <b>ironic</b> statement about the dead man, before he realises that he is looking at himself.
<b>Stave Five</b>	"Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they the shadows of the things that May be only?"	Scrooge asks the ghost if it too late for him to <b>transform</b> and alter his future.
	"Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends"	Scrooge realises that his past behaviour will determine his future
	"I don't know how long I have been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I'm quite a baby." Scrooge regarded everyone with a delighted smile.	Scrooge discards logic and is now carefree. He is a <b>transformed character</b> . He spreads good-will instead of fear and hatred.

Themes
<b>Logic and Time</b> Scrooge's sense of logic is continually disrupted, helping to dismantle his cold and rational view of society. He initially dismisses the <b>supernatural</b> appearances, before then submitting to them. The ghosts are late to visit him, and then distort time as they seem to visit him all in one night – not over three nights as planned. This discarding of logic reflects Dickens' criticism of the heartless economical logic that was used to create the New Poor Law.
<b>Compassion, Forgiveness and Reclamation</b> Dickens uses different characters to demonstrate compassion and forgiveness (Fred and Bob who feel pity for him) and how these people lead happy lives. In contrast, he shows the selfish nature of mankind in the dark and sinister Stave Four. Fred shows compassion and forgiveness to Scrooge in Stave Five by welcoming him for Christmas.
<b>Poverty and Greed</b> Dickens wanted to highlight the plight of the poor in Victorian England, and how they are exploited by the greed of the wealthy. He used to harshness of winter to further emphasise this. He also uses Scrooge as a vehicle to show that financial wealth does mean contentment. Scrooge is impoverished in other ways (family, friends, happiness).
<b>Isolation versus Family</b> We quickly learn that Scrooge ('solitary as an oyster') and Marley are isolated, and unhappy, characters. Scrooge was Marley's 'sole friend and sole mourner'. The warmth and emotional richness of families (Bob Cratchit's, Fred's, his ex-fiancée's) are used as a contrast to Scrooge's self-determined isolation. The disruption to Scrooge's childhood family life may have also contributed to his future behaviour. The message may be that family is the cornerstone of a happy society.
<b>Transformation</b> The <b>novella</b> contains many examples of transformation: the transformation of young Scrooge into an embittered old man; his transformation to a benevolent man; the transformation of Marley from selfish human to eternally-suffering ghost; supernatural transformations; the transformation of the future – to save Scrooge and Tiny Tim. Dickens message may have been that it is never too late to change.



Key Characters
 <b>Scrooge</b> The <b>protagonist</b> who initially dismisses the goodwill and generosity associated with Christmas. After being forced to transform, he becomes a symbol of Christmas spirit in Stave Five. He is cheerful and benevolent. He is a <b>dynamic character</b> (a character who changes).
 <b>Bob Cratchit and family</b> Bob is Scrooge's downtrodden but loyal employee. His family are a symbol of Victorian poverty, cheerfulness in adversity, teamwork and Christmas Spirit. Bob shows pity for Scrooge, and provides a <b>contrast</b> to Scrooge's isolation and meanness.
 <b>Nephew Fred</b> The character of Fred serves as another <b>contrast</b> to Scrooge. He epitomises the Christmas spirit of goodwill and refuses to be discouraged by his uncle's misery. People (such as the Cratchits) speak highly of him and his generosity, in contrast to how they speak of Scrooge. Fred shows that Scrooge has chosen isolation.
 <b>The Ghosts</b> The ghosts are the <b>antagonists</b> to Scrooge. They force him to view his selfish and greedy ways, and to admit how his behaviour will lead to a lonely death ("Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends"): a metaphor for how the greed of the wealthy middle class will lead to a disastrous future for society.

Context
<b>Dickens' message on poverty</b> Dickens had a comfortable childhood until the age of 12 when his father was sent to a debtors' prison and young Charles had to work in a factory. The harsh conditions made a lasting impression: through his works of <b>social criticism</b> , he sought to draw attention to the plight of the poor.
<b>The New Poor Law, 1834</b> In order to deter poor people from claiming financial help, the government made claimants live in workhouses: essentially, prisons for the poor. Dickens hated this concept. He spent 1843 touring factories and mines in England and wished to highlight the situation facing poor people. <i>A Christmas Carol</i> was published soon after – in <b>December 1843</b> .
<b>The ingredients for a hit novella</b> Dickens previous novel had not sold well and so he needed a hit. He deliberately combined elements that he knew would appeal to Victorian readers: a parable; the supernatural; a happy conclusion; and Christmas.
<b>Dickens' construction of secular Christmas values</b> Until the mid-1800s, Christmas was solely a religious festival. Dickens helped to popularise many of the cultural elements that we now associate with Christmas. This <b>imagery</b> (the food, the decorations, the music) is used throughout the novella. This has contributed to a more <b>secular</b> (non-religious) Christmas, based on good-will, benevolence and forgiveness.

Form and Structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>novella</b> is narrated in the <b>third person</b> by an <b>omniscient narrator</b>, who also seems very biased against Scrooge.</li> <li>It is a <b>parable</b>: a moral tale with a strong message.</li> <li>It is arranged in <b>five staves</b> (not chapters) as a <b>metaphor</b> for an actual Christmas carol. It contains much <b>musical imagery</b> throughout (church bells, clock chimes, carol singers, Fezziwig's party).</li> <li>Dickens uses a <b>circular structure</b>. Scrooge's interactions in Stave Five mirror those in Stave One, however he now treats everyone much differently (Fred, Bob Cratchit, the portly gentlemen, the young boy, Christmas itself). The weather also changes to reflect his transformation.</li> </ul>