

Name:

**Teacher Sheet 3.5**  
**Initial Impressions of Scrooge**

<b><u>Dickens' Intentions</u></b>	<b><u>Quotation</u></b>	<b><u>Analysis including form/structure</u></b>	<b><u>What we learn about Scrooge</u></b>
<b>The wealthier members of a society continue to make money at the expense of the poor</b>	"If they (the poor) would rather die,' said Scrooge, 'they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population'"	The repetition of third-person plural pronoun, "they", mirrors Scrooge's attitude and is indicative of the social inequality that was present in the Victorian period. The simple language used to describe the supposed benefit that their deaths would bring to society, to "decrease the surplus population", makes Scrooge's opinion appear savage and serves to dissuade us from agreeing with his Malthusian* attitude.	Scrooge's ruthlessness is demonstrated in his business dealings and he is portrayed as cruel and unsympathetic.
<b>The wealthier members of society take little consideration of their social responsibilities</b>	"The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?" said Scrooge. "Both very busy, sir." "Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course," said Scrooge. " ... "I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to	"The treadmill" is the 1818 machine invented to reform stubborn convicts "The Poor Law" is the name of several acts of parliament which dealt with the relief of the poor. The choice of Scrooge's adjectives, "useful" and "idle"; The simplistic language and use of contractions; Negative past tense auxiliary verbs	Scrooge is obstinate, he does not alter his attitude when dealing with strangers or those who he knows less personally. This highlights the longevity of his attitude; it seems unlikely to change.

Name:

	make idle people merry”		
<b>Those who have money, have power, and take advantage of this</b>	<p>“With an ill-will Scrooge dismounted from his stool, and tacitly admitted the fact to the expectant clerk in the tank, who instantly snuffed his candle out, and put on his hat.          "You'll want all day to-morrow, I suppose?" said Scrooge.          "If quite convenient, sir."          "It's not convenient," said Scrooge, "and it's not fair. "</p>	<p>“the tank” – Scrooge distrusts his employee on the basis of his social status, so he keeps him in an area where he has full view of him.          Adverbs which show that Bob is uneasy          Repetition          Monosyllabic language</p>	<p>Scrooge is mean-spirited and possibly enjoys making his employee feel uncomfortable</p>
<b>Compassion and emotional investment is more profitable than money</b>	<p>“...men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"</p>	<p>Shift from third person to first as a persuasive technique;          Emphatic language</p>	<p>Scrooge is not persuaded by his Fred’s attempt. We realise that Scrooge is stubborn and unwilling to change his selfish ways.</p>
<b>A life focused on acquiring capital</b>	<p>“...secret, and self-contained,</p>	<p>Alliterative phrases;</p>	<p>Scrooge’s attitude is so fixed in a state of</p>

Name:

<p><b>is immoral and destructive since no gain ever satisfies greed</b></p>	<p>and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice.” / “...he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! “</p>	<p>Symbolic representation of colour; Personification of the cold; the readers know that this is an emotional and spiritual cold and not just the winter weather</p> <p>Repetition of present tense verbs echo the Scrooge’s continual greed, whilst the list-like nature serves to portray the extent and intensity of his gluttony. These verbs all echo Scrooge’s draining, ungenerous disposition.</p>	<p>resentfulness that it has become his whole identity, even his appearance is one of someone who is joyless and miserable. Constant negativity breeds more cynicism just as greed breeds an ongoing desire to want more. This sets us up for his dramatic transformation.</p>

\*Dickens’ novella is an anti-Malthusian tale. Malthus was an early economist whose ideas became popular among businessmen who believed in accumulating material wealth and cared little for the welfare of others. Dickens shows his disgust with the Malthusian principle that population will always grow faster than food supply, and will be controlled through disease and starvation.