

Name:

Teacher Sheet 5.4

Memories and Imagination

- Scrooge sees a “lonely boy reading near a feeble fire” in a “long, bare, melancholy room” and Scrooge weeps to see “his poor forgotten self as he had used to be”.
- The Ghost brings Scrooge’s childhood fantasies to life – he sees Ali Baba (a hero from a fairy-tale), Valentine and Orson (from an old French romance), and Robin Crusoe (from an adventure tale).

a) Why did Scrooge, as a child, imagine these fantasies?

He may have imagined them as a form of escapism; to briefly forget the tribulations of his neglected and solitary childhood.

b) What does his love of reading and books tell us how he used to be?

He once had a vivid imagination/he was creative/he did something without considering its monetary gain.

c) What is a possible reason that Scrooge has become the man he is today?

In order to cope with his childhood, he isolated himself from society/he may not have dealt with the pain he suffered as a child and thus, he has to deal with this before he may be able to love others/he may refuse to share joy with others, for fear of having it taken away.

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d) **What point is Dickens making about neglect, not only for those in need, but for those who turn a blind eye to the troubles of others? How does this relate to Victorian society?**

Dickens wanted the public to reform; he wanted society to make themselves aware of the social victims in society and feel compassion with those who were vulnerable. Dickens is highlighting the need for compassion; if we ignore those in need, we will brood a more callous, selfish society.