A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley

Israel Horovitz

From A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
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<th>What I know...</th>
<th>What I want to know...</th>
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Charles Dickens
Biography Movie

Please answer the following questions as you view the video.

1. Location and date of birth.

2. Two significant childhood experiences.
   a.
   b.

3. Two significant adult experiences.
   a.
   b.

4. Three famous works written by Dickens (underlined).
   a.
   b.
   c.

5. Events from Charles Dickens’s life that occur in his works.
1. **Actor/actress:** The people who take on the roles of the characters in the play.

2. **Adaptation:** The result when an author takes a literary work and changes it, usually into another form (ex. novel to play form).

3. **Audience:** The people who watch the play.

4. **Costumes:** The clothes worn by the characters in the play.

5. **Dialogue:** The conversation between characters in a play.

6. **Director:** The person charged with mapping the actions of the characters, movements, effects, as well as casting, and seeing to the overall performance.

7. **Lights:** The effects of day, night, special attention, or special effects that draw attention.

8. **Narrator:** A character from the play or, most often, an additional voice that will read the stage directions when the play is being read aloud.

9. **Playwright:** The author of the play.

10. **Script:** The actual written version of the play that is memorized.

11. **Set:** The walls, rooms, streets, etc. on the stage that are needed to perform the play.

12. **Stage:** The platform on which the play is performed.

13. **Stage directions:** The part of the script that tells the characters where to walk, how to move, or speak, etc.

14. **Stage hands:** The people whose job it is to move furniture, change the scenes of the play, etc.
Scene 1
What characters were introduced in scene 1?

List three main events from scene 1.

1.

2.

3.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 1 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)

Scene 2
What new characters were introduced in scene 2?

List three main events from scene 2.

1.

2.

3.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 2 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Scene 3

What new characters were introduced in scene 3?

List three main events from scene 3.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 3 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)

Scene 4

What new characters were introduced in scene 4?

List three main events from scene 4.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 4 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Scene 5

What new characters were introduced in scene 5?

List three main events from scene 5.

1.

2.

3.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 5 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Setting

Setting is a very important part of a story. The setting tells when and where the story happens. It is the time period and place in which a story occurs.

The setting of The Little Mermaid is the sea. Sometimes, the setting can cover many different times and places. For example, a science fiction story about time travel may take place across the deserts of the old West, in jungles filled with dinosaurs, and on a space station circling the earth—all in one story!

You choose a book with this picture on the cover. What can you guess the setting of the story is?

It is important to know the ways in which the setting and the plot of a story are related.

Sometimes, the setting provides details about the mood and tone of the story. For example, a story set in a haunted house would probably be filled with suspense and horror. A story could also be set in a historical time period. How might a story set in the 1800s have a different plot than one set in the 2000s?

Other times, the setting may actually be part of the conflict in the story. This is common in adventure stories in which characters become trapped or lost in forests, avalanches, etc. The setting may also provide the way in which the conflict is resolved. In such instances, a character uses a feature of the setting to his/her advantage.

The setting of the story can also determine who the antagonists (characters that oppose the main character) of the story will be. For example, if the story is set during a war, the antagonists would probably be the enemy soldiers.
1. What is the setting of this drama (time and place)?

2. Describe the setting using two examples of imagery (remember your five senses).

3. Describe the setting using five vivid adjectives. Highlight or underline your adjectives.

4. What mood does the setting create?

5. Why? Give two specific lines from the play to support your answer.
Plot

The plot is the sequence of events that happen in a story. It shows how characters meet and resolve a conflict—a problem or struggle. Every plot is made up of a series of causes and effects.

A plot is like a long line of dominoes. When a finger tips the first domino, the first domino causes the second domino to fall, the second domino causes the third domino to fall, and so forth. The finger has caused a sequence of events. Similarly, every event that happens in a story causes another event to happen.

The plot of a play is the sequence of its incidents and events. The first part of the plot is called the exposition. Here the opening situation is established, major characters are introduced, and earlier events are revealed.

Once the opening situation is established, the central problem is made clear, and the plot of the play develops until the climax is reached. The part of the play that builds up to the climax is called the rising action.

1. Describe the situation established in Scene 1 of A Christmas Carol: Scrooge and Marley.

2. What earlier events are disclosed here?

3. What problem does Scrooge have?
Context Clues

One key to being a good reader is being able to understand the words you read. Sometimes, you might not be able to understand some vocabulary words the author uses. When this happens, it helps if you can at least understand the other words in the paragraph you are reading. The information in the paragraph can be a clue to help you understand the words you don't know. This is called a **context clue**. **Context clues** are the words around the unknown word. It is also the information that makes up the rest of the paragraph.

These are some things to look for when using **context clues**:

- **Punctuation marks** - a comma or dash may show you something about the unknown words. They can also give a clue to the new word's definition.

  Example: *The *urbane* features, the classy paintings and chic architecture, made me feel out of place.*

- **Key words**, such as "or" and "that is," may give you a hint to a definition.

  Example: *Timothy thought the movie’s plot was too *convoluted*, that is it was too hard and complex to follow.*

- **Make sure to read the entire passage**. An unknown word may make more sense after you read the entire paragraph or passage.

1. “Nobody has ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come see me?’ No beggars *implored* him to bestow a trifle, no children ever ask him what is o’clock…”

Based on the clues in the passage, *implored* most likely means:

A. Hated or distrusted  
B. asked or begged earnestly  
C. looked at longingly  
D. understand fully
2. “Come then, what right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be *morose*? You’re rich enough.”

Based on the clues in the passage, *morose* most likely means:
- A. gloomy, ill-tempered
- B. happy, excited
- C. sad, devastated
- D. caring, loving

3. “No light at all…no moon…that is what is at the center of a Christmas Eve: dead black: *void*…”

Based on the clues in the passage, *void* most likely means:
- A. filled with people
- B. happiness
- C. sadness
- D. total emptiness

4. Scrooge’s sounds and movements will define him in contrast from all other people who cross the stage: he is the *misanthrope*, the malcontent, the miser. He is Scrooge.

Based on the clues in the passage, *misanthrope* most likely means:
- A. a person who hates or distrusts everyone
- B. a person who loves everyone
- C. a person who is apathetic
- D. a person who is educated

5. “Or would you know, you, Scrooge, the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it, since. It is a *ponderous* chain.”

Based on the clues in the passage, *ponderous* most likely means:
- A. light
- B. durable
- C. thin
- D. very heavy
Synonyms and Antonyms

A **synonym** is a word that has the same or *almost* the same meaning as another word. An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word.

It's easy to remember the meanings of **synonym** and **antonym** by using these little tricks:

**Synonym = Same**
They both start with an **S**!

Examples of **synonyms** include:
rabbit and bunny
rocks and stones
enjoy and like

**Antonym = Opposite**
They both start with a **vowel**!

Examples of **antonyms** include:
bad and good
hot and cold
soft and hard

**Tip:** Replace the underlined word with each answer choice. If the meaning of the sentence is the **same**, then you've found a **synonym**. If the meaning of the sentence is the **opposite** of what it was before, then you've found an **antonym**.

Recognizing Synonyms and Antonyms

Circle the correct answer.

1. Antonym for **implored**:
   a. despised  
   b. begged  
   c. told

2. Antonym for **morose**:
   a. pleasant  
   b. despised  
   c. gloomy

3. Synonym for **destitute**:
   a. impoverished  
   b. solvent  
   c. ill-tempered

4. Antonym for **misanthrope**:
   a. distrusting person  
   b. ecstatic person  
   c. sullen person

5. Synonym for **ponderous**:
   a. void  
   b. lightweight  
   c. bulky
Character

Characters are one of the most important parts of a story. There are several things to look at when studying characters. Below is a list of things to think about when you are learning about a character in a story.

**Trait** - an interesting thing about a character. A trait is what makes a character different from other characters.

**Examples:**
- hair color, eye color, height, weight, age, beliefs, likes, dislikes, opinions, actions

"Andrew is a nice boy of medium height with brown hair and eyes. He loves to read."

**Motivation** - something that causes one to act in a certain way. It can be an emotion or something a person wants or needs. A motivation is simply the reason *why* a character does something.

**Example:**
- You eat food because you are hungry.

**Conflict** - a disagreement, fight, or struggle between two people or groups.

**Example:**
- An example of a conflict is when you want to eat ice cream before dinner but your mom will not let you. You and your mom disagree about when you should be able to eat ice cream.

**Point of View** - the view of the person telling the story.

**Example:**
- "Because Tina told the teacher her version of the story first, I got punished even though it really wasn't my fault."

**Relationships** - the connection of people through friendship, family, work, school, or other activities.

**Examples:**
- mother, sister, friend, teacher, neighbor, father, boss, etc.
Think about how all these things affect the story. A character's traits or relationships might affect his or her point of view. Motivation affects action and changes. When we understand all of these elements, a character becomes easy to understand. When writing your own characters, think about all these things. You'll be on your way to creating an interesting and deep character!

**Complete the chart by listing specific details that reveal Scrooge's personality and how it changes.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Characterization</th>
<th>Act I</th>
<th>Act II Scene 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>His physical appearance</td>
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<tr>
<td>His actions</td>
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<td>What he says</td>
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<td>What he thinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>How others react to him</td>
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Scene 1
What characters were introduced in scene 1?

List three main events from scene 1.

4.

5.

6.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 1 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)

Scene 2
What new characters were introduced in scene 2?

List three main events from scene 2.

1.

2.

3.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 2 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Scene 3

What new characters were introduced in scene 3?

List three main events from scene 3.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 3 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)

Scene 4

What new characters were introduced in scene 4?

List three main events from scene 4.

1. 
2. 
3. 

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 4 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Scene 5

What new characters were introduced in scene 5?

List three main events from scene 5.

1.

2.

3.

Write a ONE sentence summary of scene 5 (What would you say to someone who did not read the scene?)
Fact and Opinion

To be a good reader, you should be able to tell the difference between a **fact** and an **opinion**. Figuring out facts from opinions is something you do already. You may do it without even knowing it. Below are some definitions and examples of facts and opinions. They will help you tell the difference between facts and opinions.

**Fact** - A **fact** is a statement that you can check or prove with evidence (proof). This evidence may be in what someone says, something you see, or something written in a book or text. In other words, a **fact** is something that can be proved. **Facts** are usually found in newspapers, textbooks, and news shows on television.

**Examples:**
- Ronald Reagan was the 40th president of the United States.
- The sun is 93 million miles away from Earth.
- A square has four sides.
- The restaurant's hours are nine to five.
- **Heather thinks that the best team in the NBA is the Dallas Mavericks.**

**Opinion** - An **opinion** is a statement that cannot be proven true or false. **Opinions** are what people believe, feel, or decide about something. An **opinion** cannot be proven right or wrong. Opinions are usually found in editorials, letters to the editor, and in debates.

**Examples:**
- Ronald Reagan was one of the best presidents the United States has ever had.
- That movie was cool!
- Computers are confusing.
- Blue is the prettiest color.
- The book was great.
- People should not use cell phones when driving.
- **Dallas has the best team in the NBA.**

**Some people get confused about these types of statements. You could ask Heather if she likes the Mavericks, and she could tell you it's a fact that she likes them. You could prove that she likes the Mavericks just by asking her. In other words, it is a **fact** that Heather has an opinion about the Mavericks. If she said, "Dallas has the best team in the NBA," it would be an **opinion**.**
Give an example of two facts about Charles Dickens (refer to notes from video).
1. 
2. 

Give an example of two opinions about Charles Dickens.
1. 
2. 

Although an opinion cannot be proven true or false, a sound opinion is one that is supported by facts or details. For instance, to support an opinion that Scrooge is willing to change, you could mention his statement to the Ghost of Christmas Present (early in Act II) “Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it.”

1. In Act II, Scene 3, Scrooge observes the Cratchits at home. What does Scrooge say that could support the opinion that he is developing feelings of kindness or compassion?

2. Write a one sentence description of Scrooge as he is at the end of the play. Support your statement with two details from the final scene.
Theme

A theme is a central idea or universal truth explored in a piece of writing. It is a message that makes the reader think about life, human nature, or how the world works. Usually the author will not tell the reader what the theme is in a single sentence. The reader must figure it out by looking at what happens in the story.

Here are some common themes found in literature:

- Man is man’s worst enemy.
- Good is stronger than evil.
- A person grows by facing obstacles.
- Enjoy life now because we all die too soon.
- Love conquers all.
- Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Notice that the themes aren’t describing particular events or characters. They are broad ideas that can apply to all people.

Tips for identifying theme:

- Look closely at the title. Sometimes you will find a clue about the theme.
- Look for ideas that are repeated more than once.
- Look for lessons that the character learns.
- Think about what happens in the story and how it can apply to life. For example, if the main character must survive an approaching tornado, the theme may be “Nature is at war with mankind.”

**Theme** is the central idea or insight about life revealed in a work of literature. Because the character of Scrooge is of central importance to the play, understanding why he changes will help you understand the theme.

1. Find three places in Act II where Scrooge’s reactions show him changing for the better.

2. In general, why does Scrooge change for the better over the course of Act II?

3. Using your answer to the preceding question, determine the theme of the play.
Figurative Language

**Figurative language** is a set of literary devices that authors use to bring the reader into the writing. The literary devices use language in such a way that what is being said is different actual literal meaning of the words. Figurative language helps the reader to get a clearer picture of what's happening, and they can also be used to convince the reader of something, or they can be used to simply entertain the reader. Some common types of figurative language are: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and imagery. Below are some definitions and examples of these types of figurative language.

**Simile**: A simile is a comparison between two unlike objects using the words "like" or "as."

   **Example**: *Angus Scrimm was as tall as a tree.*

**Metaphor**: Metaphor is a type of comparison between two objects that are not thought of to be the same. It's similar to a simile, but it doesn't use the words "like" or "as."

   **Example**: *Love is a sad and lonely flower.*

**Hyperbole**: Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect.

   **Example**: *The moon is made of green cheese.*

**Imagery**: Imagery deals with senses. It's language which describes something in detail, but it appeals to the senses.

   **Example**: *The wind blew through the window and painted the walls with frost* is another way of saying the room was cold. It plays on your sense of touch by describing a feeling in visual terms.
little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"

-- E. E. Cummings

1. Give an example of a *simile* in the poem.

Line #(s)_____________

2. Give an example of a *metaphor* in the poem.

Line #(s)_____________
3. Give an example of *personification* in the poem.

Line #(s)______________

4. Give an example of a *hyperbole* in the poem.

Line #(s)______________

5. Give an example of *imagery* in the poem.

Line #(s)______________

6. Give an example of *alliteration* in the poem.

Line #(s)______________