recursos

Didactic Project

1º & 2º SECONDARY EDUCATION STAGE

A Christmas Carol



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SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 1: The Synopsis

Before you read, look at the underlined words from the synopsis and match them to the correct definition. Now use the words above to fill in the gaps.

1. The play is **set**	**a.** a spirit
2. **Christmas Eve**	b. the way you think and behave
3. **mean / tight-fisted**	**c.** the night before Christmas
4. **ghost**	**d.** the years 1800 - 1899
5. **19th century**	**e.** happens / takes place
6. **attitude**	**f.** doesn´t like to spend money

The play is **set** *on* **Christmas Eve** *in* **19th century** *London. It tells the story of Mr Scrooge, a* **mean**, **tight- isted** *old man who has no love or kindness in heart. Mr Scrooge does not care about his family or other people; the only thing that is important to him is money. On Christmas Eve, 3* **ghosts** *visit Mr Scrooge – the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Future. Each ghost shows Mr Scrooge a scene from his life. The first ghost shows him his life as a child, the second ghost shows him his life as it is now, and the third ghost shows him how his future will be if he doesn't change his* **attitude** *and become better person. Will the ghosts succeed in teaching Mr Scrooge a lesson…? Will Mr Scrooge become a kinder, more caring man...?*

What is a Christmas carol? Can you think of any well-known carols? Why do you think the play is called *"A Christmas Carol?"*

B Before

SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 2: Who Was Charles Dickens?

Who was Dickens? Do you know anything about him? How is he connected to the story of A Christmas Carol? Do the following quiz as a class to find out more…

1. Who was Charles Dickens?

- ❒ A famous actor
- ❒ A famous writer
- ❒ A mean old man

2. Where was he from?

- ❒ New York, USA
- ❒ Paris, France
- ❒ London, England

3. When did he live?

- ❒ From 1812 to 1870
- ❒ From 1712 to 1770
- ❒ From 1912 to 1970

4. One of his most famous novels is called…

- ❒ A Christmas Song
- ❒ A Christmas Dinner
- ❒ A Christmas Carol

Now that you know a little bit about Charles Dickens, one of the most famous English writers in history, see what other interesting facts you can find out about him…!

B Before SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 3: The Characters

In the play, there are 10 characters. Read the character list below to find out who they are:

- Mr Scrooge – A mean old man who only cares about his money
- Fred Cratchit – Mr Scrooge´s nephew and employee
- Linda Cratchit – Fred´s wife
- Tiny Tim – Fred and Linda´s son
- Fanny – Mr Scrooge´s sister and Fred´s mother (she died when Fred was born)
- Marley´s Ghost – Mr Scrooge´s old business partner (He died seven years ago)
- The Ghost of Christmas Past
- The Ghost of Christmas Present
- The Ghost of Christmas Future

Now, read the following extract from the play. It is the scene where The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Mr Scrooge to Fred, Linda and Tiny Tim´s house.

Extract from the play (TRACK 7):

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Hello Scrooge. I am the Ghost of Christmas Present.

MR. SCROOGE: Which Christmas?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: This Christmas Scrooge. This very same Christmas. Will you come with me?

MR. SCROOGE: I am willing to go with you, yes.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Good, come.

B Before

SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

(There is a creaking sound and the mirror opens, revealing a dark passage. They squeeze into the passage as the mirror closes again. They arrive at the house of his nephew, Fred. Through one of the windows we can see Linda preparing Christmas dinner and Tiny Tim can be heard in the background.)
(Fred´s house. Mrs Cratchit is cooking the dinner. Tiny Tim's voice is heard offstage.)

TINY TIM: Ahoy! We've arrived! Moor the boat!

LINDA: Daddy! Tiny Tim!

(Enter Fred and Tiny Tim.)

FRED: We've arrived, Captain!

MR. SCROOGE: What´s wrong with Fred's son? Why does he look so weak?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Shhhh… Fred told you, but you never listened to him.

MR. SCROOGE: Is he sick?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: You'll see.

TINY TIM: There were a lot of people out in the street, weren't there, Daddy?

FRED: Yes, son.

TINY TIM: And a lady who was selling chestnuts gave me a dozen for free!

FRED: I told him to eat some of them, but he didn't want to.

TINY TIM: They are for dinner, Mummy!

LINDA: Thank you, dear! We will put them on the table.

(Linda is thrilled by Tiny Tim's generosity. She moves aside to talk to Fred without Tiny Tim hearing.)

B Before

SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

LINDA: What did the doctor say?

FRED: Tiny Tim is not getting better… He looks weaker than last week.

LINDA: Oh, my baby…

FRED: But we mustn't be sad, for him or for us. He is happy and we must enjoy Christmas together. Tomorrow will be in the hands of God.

(Linda is setting the table. She wonders whether to put out three plates or four.)

LINDA: My dear Fred, will Mr. Scrooge be having dinner with us in the end?

TIM: Is he coming, Daddy? Is he coming? Is he coming? Is he? Is he? Tell me Daddy… is he coming?

FRED: I'm sorry… but he said "Bah, humbug!"… So I don't think he will be coming this year either.

LINDA: "Bah, Humbug"? He doesn't know what he will be missing! What's the point of having so much money if he is so alone?

FRED: I know. The truth is, I feel sorry for him.

LINDA: Why? It's his own fault.

FRED: Why is he so obsessed about money when he lives like a poor man?

LINDA: I don't understand why you care so much about him, when he shows no interest in us.

FRED: ***(Covering Tiny Tim's ears.)*** Linda, please! Not in front of the boy!

LINDA: He should hear the truth about his uncle!

FRED: Linda, darling, I invite him every year to spend Christmas Eve with us, hoping that one year he will come… I feel sorry for him… But he could never upset me. He is the one who has to put up with himself all the time. I don't always understand his ways, but he is my only family: he is part of my roots. He's my mother's brother. Sometimes I look in his eyes and wonder what my mother's eyes would have been like.

MR. SCROOGE: She was beautiful… She died giving birth to Fred… it was as if she just fell asleep holding her baby in her arms.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: And you looked after your nephew, right?

MR. SCROOGE: Um… No… He still had his father. I never understood what she saw in him.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT: But his father died when Fred was only seven years old.

MR. SCROOGE: Yes, but he was very mature for his age. He knew how to look after himself.

B Before

SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Reported Speech. Change these sentences from the scene you have just read into reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

1. *MR. SCROOGE: What´s wrong with Fred's son?*

   Mr Scrooge asked what was wrong with Fred´s son.

2. *MR. SCROOGE: Is he sick?*

3. *FRED: Tiny Tim is not getting better.*

4. *LINDA: My dear Fred, will Mr. Scrooge be having dinner with us in the end?*

5. *FRED: The truth is, I feel sorry for him.*

6. *LINDA: It's his own fault.*

7. *LINDA (TO FRED): I don't understand why you care so much about him.*

8. *LINDA: He should hear the truth about his uncle!*

B Before

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 1: What is happening?

Listen to extract from the play **(TRACK 2)** and answer the following questions.

1. What is Mr Scrooge´s favourite expression?
   - ❒ Bah, go away!
   - ❒ Bah, nonsense!
   - ❒ Bah, humbug!

2. Who does Mr Scrooge think is making the strange noises?
   - ❒ a rat
   - ❒ a thief
   - ❒ Father Christmas

3. Who has come to visit Scrooge?
   - ❒ The ghost of his old business partner
   - ❒ Someone asking for a donation
   - ❒ A policeman

4. What is the name of the visitor?
   - ❒ James Marley
   - ❒ John Marley
   - ❒ Jacob Marley

5. How many years ago did Mr Marley die?
   - ❒ 8 years ago
   - ❒ 7 years ago
   - ❒ 6 years ago

6. What reason does Mr Scrooge give for not trusting his senses?
   - ❒ insomnia
   - ❒ a headache
   - ❒ indigestion

7. Why has the visitor come to see Mr Scrooge?
   - ❒ To wish him Merry Christmas
   - ❒ To give him a warning
   - ❒ To ask for money

8. Who is the only person who can save Mr Scrooge?
   - ❒ himself
   - ❒ Fred
   - ❒ Tiny Tim

B Before

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 2: "Christmas Time Has Come to Town"

Listen to the song, "Christmas Time Has Come to Town" **(TRACK 5)** and fill in the missing words. You have been given the first letter to help you.

CHRISTMAS TIME HAS COME TO TOWN

Open your h_____ ,
open your s_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

In every k_____ ,
In every w_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

Hear the voices
calling you,
in every p_____ ,
in every s_____ .

Hear the bells,
it's Christmas time.
Don't be a_____ ,
don't look b_____ .

Open your h_____ ,
open your s_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

B Before

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

In every k_____ ,
in every w_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

Look through the w_____ ,
it's starting to s_____ .
The bells are ringing,
you are not alone.

Share your b_____ ,
share your h_____ ,
it's only Christmas
if you sing this song.

Open your h_____ ,
open your s_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

In every k_____ ,
in every w_____ ,
Christmas time, Christmas time
has come to town.

B Before

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 3: Christmas Spirit

Read the following quote:

> **FANNY:** All you have to do is believe in the spirit of Christmas and then everything around you will become magical. It's not money that makes it special, but the people who you are with, my little Scrooge.

Discuss the following questions:

1. Do you agree with Fanny?
2. What makes Christmas special for you?
3. How does your family celebrate Christmas?

B Before

SESSION 3: THE ENDING

Activity 1: Choose the Correct Word

Read the extract from the play **(TRACK 13)** where the Ghost of Christmas Future takes Mr Scrooge to see his future and underline the correct word.

FRED: Farewell, my dear Uncle, you left us too soon.

LINDA: Come on, Fred.

MR. SCROOGE: I did leave them ***(few / some / little)*** _____ money, right?

CHRISTMAS FUTURE: Not a penny. What's more, you didn't even ***(left / leave / leaving)*** _____ money for your own funeral. Fred will have to pay for it.

MR. SCROOGE: My nephew? But he has no money!

LINDA: Are you sure you want to ***(sell / buy / spend)*** _____ all our savings and the money for your book to pay for his funeral?

FRED: My dear, I want a dignified funeral for my ***(uncle / aunt / cousin)*** _____ At the end of the day he was my sister's brother. And you know what? That makes me feel good.

LINDA: They were all our savings, and your book!

MR. SCROOGE: What do you mean, all his savings?

CHRISTMAS FUTURE: It seems that your nephew cared ***(for / in / on)*** _____ you more than you realised.

LINDA: No publishers have taken any interest ***(on / in / at)*** _____ your book, that's bad luck!

FRED: It's a good job I didn't get conned by the last one, they wanted ***(publish / publishing / to publish)*** _____ my book in somebody else's name. I don't know, Honey, I've got the feeling that one day somebody will read my work and believe in me.

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SESSION 3: THE ENDING

LINDA: Of course dear, of course. ***(They hug.)***

MR. SCROOGE: Why ***(doesn´t / does / do)*** _____ nobody believe in him? He is a good man, look at all he did for me…

CHRISTMAS FUTURE: Yes, that is something YOU would never do.

FRED: Our Tiny Tim would have loved to have read his father's book. Rest in peace, my son, wherever you are. You'll always be close to us, here in our hearts.

MR. SCROOGE: Tiny Tim…. He…. Died?

CHRISTMAS FUTURE: If everything stays the same as it is now, this will be his fate.
MR. SCROOGE: It can't be! Poor Tiny Tim! I don't want to see any more… Please, I want to go home… I can't take any more.

Activity 2: What Happens Next?

In the previous activity, you read an extract from the play where the Ghost of Christmas Future takes Mr Scrooge to see what his future will be like if he doesn´t change his ways and become a better person.

Do you think that Scrooge will change? Do you think he will learn the lesson that the ghosts are trying to teach him? Give reasons for your answers.

Discuss your ideas as a class. Use these structures to help you…

I think that …
Mr Scrooge may / might / could …
It is possible that …
Perhaps …

B Before

SESSION 3: THE ENDING

Activity 3: Past Simple and Present Perfect

Change these sentences from the play from past simple to present perfect. The verbs you need to change have been underlined for you.

I haven't heard a thing… all I know is he didn't leave me anything at all.

I heard that somebody broke into his house and stole everything.

Scrooge was a very mean man; I don't think they will spend much on his funeral.

Farewell, my dear Uncle, you left us too soon.

What's more, you didn´t leave money for your own funeral.

Now, change these sentences from the play from present perfect to past simple. The verbs you need to change have been underlined for you.

And what has happened to all of his money?

I haven't heard a thing… all I know is he didn't leave me anything at all.

No publishers have taken any interest in your book, that's bad luck.

A
After

SESSION 4 : Express Yourself

Activity 1: What Did You Think?

Now that you have seen the play, let´s talk about the experience….

What was your general impression of the play?

I thought it was…..

- *funny*
- *exciting*
- *boring*
- *entertaining*
- *clever*
- *inspiring*
- *enjoyable*

because…..

What did you like the most?

- *The best part was…*
- *The funniest part was…*
- *The most entertaining part was…*
- *The most enjoyable part was…*

What message do you think the play is trying to teach us?

A
After

SESSION 4: Express Yourself

Activity 2: Write Your Own Review!

Imagine you are a journalist for your local newspaper. You need to write a review of the play giving your opinion about the following …

- The plot
- The actors
- The script
- The costumes
- The scenery
- The music

Below is the opening paragraph of the review. Continue with your own thoughts and ideas.

Last night was the premiere of the well-known classic, ***"A Christmas Carol".*** *There was not an empty seat in the theatre, and the audience was very excited to see the story of Mr Scrooge come to life before their eyes…*

A After

SESSION 4 : Express Yourself

Activity 3: Your Turn!

Use the following script to role-play **(TRACK 4)** where Mr Scrooge visits a Christmas past. You can use the directions in brackets to help you.

(Scrooge falls asleep. Within a few seconds the clock strikes. Scrooge turns over in the bed and wonders if something will appear before his eyes. The room fills with mist, and the window swings open and closes again. Scrooge lights a candle, but it blows out and then relights on its own. The image of a ghost appears, staring at him from the mirror.)

MR. SCROOGE: Are you the ghost I was told would come to see me?

CHRISTMAS PAST: I am.

MR. SCROOGE: Who are you?

CHRISTMAS PAST: I am the Ghost of Christmas Past… a dark memory in your heart. I will show you the past, your previous life.

MR. SCROOGE: What do you mean?

CHRISTMAS PAST: I will take you back to the Christmases you have already had. Follow me!

MR. SCROOGE: Where are you taking me?

(They hear children's voices as they pass through the mirror in Mr. Scrooge´s bedroom, out into the street.)

CHRISTMAS PAST: Don´t you remember the way?

MR. SCROOGE: I think so… wait! This is the way to my old school!

CHRISTMAS PAST: Exactly!

MR. SCROOGE: It can't be… but they´re my… those are my friend´s voices! Can I speak to them?

A
After

SESSION 4 : Express Yourself

CHRISTMAS PAST: They can´t see you, nor hear you. They are the shadows of things that have been, they do not know we are here.
MR. SCROOGE: ***(Friskily.)*** They've just left school to go home for Christmas. They let us go home for the holidays, you know?
CHRISTMAS PAST: Yes, all but one… Look… Who do you see there?
MR. SCROOGE: It must be some boy who stayed at the boarding school… he can't have a family to go to.
CHRISTMAS PAST: Take a closer look!

(Scrooge gets closer and sees a young boy crying.)

MR. SCROOGE: Why… that is me!
CHILD SCROOGE: Another Christmas here…

(He takes his books and gets up.)

MR. SCROOGE: My father left me here many times, at this school at Christmas. He had a lot of work… He was always too busy to spend time with us.
CHRISTMAS PAST: Look who´s coming…
CHILD SCROOGE: Fan! What are you doing here?
MR. SCROOGE: It's my sister! It´s my sister Fan!
FANNY: Hello, what are you doing?
CHILD SCROOGE: I´m drawing a picture… a Christmas present for Father. Fan, where is Father?
FANNY: Father… Father is working… he has a lot of work to do today. It looks like we are staying here.
MR. SCROOGE: My sister… she had a large heart.
CHRISTMAS PAST: She died as young woman, right?
MR. SCROOGE: Yes, when she had her son.
CHRISTMAS PAST: Your nephew.
MR. SCROOGE: Yes
CHILD SCROOGE: But Fan, won't we be having Christmas dinner?
FANNY: Of course we will! Firstly we need a table cloth. ***(She takes off her winter cloak and places it over two chairs.)***

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After

SESSION 4: Express Yourself

CHILD SCROOGE: But Fan, that is not a table cloth, it´s your winter cloak…

FANNY: Of course it is. It´s a luxury table cloth. A luxury table cloth, with gold borders. Isn´t it pretty?

CHILD SCROOGE: But Fan…

FANNY: If you pretend hard enough, you will see it. Doesn´t it look nice? And we can take this precious vase, covered with jewels…

CHILD SCROOGE: What vase? This mug, Fan?

FANNY: It's not a mug! It´s beautiful Indian vase… A very special Indian vase. Isn´t it brilliant?

CHILD SCROOGE: It´s amazing, Fan… and very pretty. I´d never seen it like that before.

FANNY: And last but not least, we need… flowers!

CHILD SCROOGE: We need food!

FANNY: The food is taken care of, the chef will bring it from downstairs in a minute… Now, a Christmas table isn´t a Christmas table without flowers for decoration. ***(Taking out some coloured pencils and placing then in the mug.)*** There we are! Beautiful flowers. In this house, money does not matter. The most important thing is that we are together.

CHILD SCROOGE: But what house, Fan? We are on the street.

FANNY: Oh, not tonight… tonight we are in a great dining hall… surrounded by warm fire places! Look at the splendid rug! And the table covered with delicacies! And look, here comes the turkey!

CHILD SCROOGE: A turkey?

FANNY: Yes a turkey! ***(She says, taking out an enormous cardboard box.)*** But before we start with this piping hot turkey, ***(Showing the empty cardboard box.)*** let's tuck into this bread. This bread is freshly baked, from a convent in South London… ***(Taking two buns from her bag.)*** Mmmm! Delicious!

CHILD SCROOGE: Fan, it smells delicious! What a marvellous Christmas dinner!

FANNY: Of course, you have to believe it to make it real! All you have to do is believe in the spirit of Christmas and then everything around you will become magical. It´s not money that makes it special, but the people who you are with, my little Scrooge.

A
After

SESSION 4 : Express Yourself

Alternatively, use your imagination and creativity to choreograph movements for the song, "Thanks for Opening Your Heart" **(TRACK 15)**. Then perform and sing the song for your classmates.

MR. SCROOGE:

Thanks for showing me the way,
thanks for opening the doors.
Now I know the meaning of love,
thanks for opening your heart.

LINDA:

All you used to be
lives in the past,
we'll begin a new life.

FRED:

All you used to be
will never come back.

TINY TIM:

Thanks for opening your heart!

ALL:

Thanks for giving us all this light,
because it's Christmas time!
See the future, a new life.
Thanks for opening your heart!
Thanks for giving us all this light,
because it's Christmas time!
See the future, a new life.
Thanks for opening your heart!

OTHER SHOWS
1º & 2º Secundary Education Stage

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Midsummer Night's Dream ***(In English)***
Notre Damme de Paris ***(En Français)***
Oliver Twist
El lazarillo de Tormes
Bodas de sangre

A Christmas Carol

Didactic Project elaborated by
Nawaf Numen González





Old Scrooge does not know the true meaning of Christmas... so the bigger the illness… the bigger the show! Come to see our moving musical, which we have prepared especially for you. This classical piece of English literature will become the best-loved class of the season. Come and enjoy an unforgettable time with your pupils at this fabulous adaptation of one of Dickens' most emblematic works.

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