

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

1º & 2º E.S.O.



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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 _____ on _____ in _____ London. It tells the story of Mr. Scrooge, a _____, _____ 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 _____ 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 _____ 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?"



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...!



SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

Activity 3: The 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** – Mr Scrooge’s nephew
- **Linda** – Fred’s wife
- **Tiny Tim** – Bob’s son
- **Bob Cratchit** – Mr Scrooge’s secretary
- **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.

*(The Ghost of Christmas Present snaps his fingers, pointing at the sound technician.
The scene changes to Bob Cratchit's house.)*

(Bob enters.)

SCROOGE: Ah, my little helper. What a horrible house!

PRESENT: Look, dear Scrooge, his salary isn't enough.

BOB: My boy! Have you returned from your walk?

(Tiny Tim enters the scene with two wooden crutches, but one is broken.)



SESSION 1: SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS

SCROOGE: Ah, my little helper. What a horrible house!

PRESENT: Look, dear Scrooge, his salary isn't enough.

BOB: My boy! Have you returned from your walk?

BOB: Don't worry, you'll see! Old Scrooge will raise my salary one day.

(Tiny Tim enters the scene with two wooden crutches, but one is broken.)

(First Scrooge starts laughing. But Tim and then Bob follows suit... causing Scrooge to gradually become quieter.)

TINY: Yes, but look, Dad! I'm so sorry. I got stuck on a rock and...

BOB: Don't worry, son. We'll get it fixed. Or better still, we'll buy another one.

TINY: Dad, we have no money left. And my medical treatment is very expensive.

BOB: Yes, I know, son. Scrooge will never raise my salary.

TINY: Dad, the important thing is the time we spend together. The little time I have

BOB: left... Don't say that, son.

SCROOGE: Little time? Don't say that...

PRESENT: Shhh! No spoilers.

TINY: You have to have hope, dad. Also, look at this!

(Tiny walks around the room with only one crutch.)

TINY: There is no need to be greedy. Why two? With one I can even defeat the evillest pirates: The great Tiny Tim, in the fight against death, will defeat the

BOB: powerful ships of the high seas! Aha! Here's a pirate who will face you!

TINY: Fight, you idiot...

BOB: Tiny, don't be rude.

TINY: Fight, you're a... piggy?

BOB: Aha! Are you calling me fat?

(They play fight until Tiny slips and Bob manages to catch him so he doesn't end up falling. They both laugh.)



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.

MR. SCROOGE: What a horrible house!

PRESENT: His salary isn't enough.

TINY TIM: Yes, but look, Dad! I got stuck on a rock and...

BOB (TO TINY TIM): We'll get it fixed. Or better still, we'll buy another one.

TINY TIM: My medical treatment is very expensive.

BOB: Old Scrooge will raise my salary one day.

TINY TIM: The important thing is the time we spend together.

TINY TOM: With one I can even defeat the evillest pirates.



SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 1: What Is Happening?



Read to act 1 from the play and answer the following questions:

1. Who signed Marley's burial register?

- a) Fred
- b) Bob
- c) Scrooge
- d) John

2. What tool does Bob carry when he enters Scrooge's office?

- a) A hammer
- b) A saw
- c) A screwdriver
- d) A nail

3. How does Scrooge react when Fred wishes him a "Merry Christmas"?

- a) With joy
- b) With contempt
- c) With surprise
- d) With indifference

4. What phrase does Scrooge use to express his disdain for Christmas?

- a) Bah!
- b) Bah! Humbug!
- c) Happy holidays
- d) I don't care

5. What does Fred ask Scrooge at the end of their conversation?

- a) To lend him money
- b) To have dinner with them
- c) To give him something
- d) To help him with his work

6. How does Bob feel about Christmas?

- a) Indifferent
- b) Discouraged
- c) Cheerful
- d) Angry

7. What does Scrooge think about people who celebrate Christmas?

- a) That they are fortunate
- b) That they have the right to be happy
- c) That they are fools
- d) That they should work more



SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 2: "Silent Night"



Listen to the song, "Silent Night" (Track 01) and fill in the missing lines.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night,

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,

All is calm, all is bright,

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.



SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 3: Christmas Spirit

Read the following quote:

“My dear Lydia. I know our love was true, but my path is totally different from yours. My words will be hard to hear, but my vision for the future is to become rich and successful. You do not share my ambitions, so you cannot share my life. I hope that you find a man who makes you happy, but any proper man must fight for his future, like I am doing now. From your friend, Ebenezer Scrooge”



Discuss the following questions:

- What are the implications of prioritizing personal ambitions over romantic relationships, as expressed by Ebenezer Scrooge in his letter to Lydia?
Consider how individual goals can influence personal connections and the sacrifices that may come with pursuing success.



SESSION 3: THE ENDING

Activity 1: Verbs



Read the following extract from the play and complete the verb tenses as appropriate.

Fred _____ (ENTER) with Jane. Jane _____ (LAUGH) and _____ (CARRY) a tray of food.

FRED: He _____ (SAY) that Christmas _____ (BE) stupid, I swear! And he _____ (BELIEVE) it too!

JANE: He _____ (MISS OUT), Fred!

FRED: He _____ (BE) a comical old fellow. He _____ (SUFFER).

JANE: I _____ (BE) sure he _____ (BE) very rich, Fred.

FRED: So what if he _____ (BE) rich? His wealth _____ (BE) of no use to him. He _____ (DO) no good with it. He _____ (HAVE) no better life with it.

JANE: I _____ (HAVE) no patience with him.

FRED: Oh, I _____ (HAVE)! I _____ (BE) sorry for him; I couldn't _____ (BE) angry with him if I _____ (TRY). He _____ (NOT COME) and _____ (DINE) with us.

JANE: He _____ (MISS) a very good dinner.

Fred _____ (POUR) three glasses of wine and _____ (LEAVE) one on the table. Ebenezer _____ (APPROACH) the table to try to _____ (LIFT) the glass but he _____ (NOT CAN).



SESSION 3: THE ENDING

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 ...



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.



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?

OTHER SHOWS

1º & 2º DE E.S.O.

Lucky Day (*lb'9b[`]g\ Ł*)

Frankestein (*In English*)

Notre Dame de Paris (*En Français*)

El Quijote

Tres sombreros de copa

A Christmas Carol

Didactic Project elaborated by
Nawaf Numen González



Christmas wouldn't be the same without old Scrooge learning its real meaning. Come enjoy the enduring classic of English literature as you experience the most lauded language lesson of the season. The children will never forget this marvellous adaptation of Charles Dickens's popular story.

