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*“Everything for the English Classroom!”*

## **Free Lesson of the Month December, 2010**

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Please feel free to share this lesson with all your colleagues. We hope that they find these classroom-proven lessons to be as useful as you do.

This month’s Free Lesson, *Making and Defending Creative Decisions for Stave V,*” comes from the *A Christmas Carol Activity Pack*.

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## Stave V

### Creative Decision-making Critical Thinking

**Objective:** Making and defending creative decisions  
Thinking critically about the book

#### Activity

*Answers will vary. This activity may be done individually, in pairs, or in groups.*

A new movie version of *A Christmas Carol* is in the works and *you* will be its writer and director. As even the most illustrious writers and directors must, you need to creatively meet the demands of the film's producers without sacrificing your vision. Your vision includes a desire to faithfully represent what you think of as the "core" or spirit of Dickens's book: the most important points and incidents.

The following are a number of the producers' concerns. In a 2-3 page proposal, inform them of and explain to them the reasons behind your creative decisions.

#### MEMO

TO: THE DIRECTOR/WRITER  
FROM: THE PRODUCERS

1. While the film's soundtrack will be minimal and instrumental, we would like to have one currently existing song *with lyrics* playing while the end credits roll. Which song do you think would be appropriate? Please attach a sheet with the song's lyrics to your proposal.
2. Re: the title, *A Christmas Carol*. We would like to have an alternate choice. Please suggest an effective title, and tell us why you think it would be a fitting one for the film.
3. We are not sure whether we want the movie filmed in color, black and white, or both (like *The Wizard of Oz*). Please give us your opinion and the reasoning behind it. If you decide on color, mention the three main colors you plan to use; these colors will set the tone of the film.
4. While we know that you favor leaving them in, we would like to cut the extended scenes of merrymaking in Staves II and III out of the film—to simply represent them with Scrooge quickly looking through a window, seeing the merrymakers, and leaving alone. Explain to us why we should keep those extended scenes in; persuade us to change our minds.
5. If you had to cut one scene from the film—which, so far, is completely faithful to the novel—which would it be and why? Explain.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

—THE PRODUCERS

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