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Teaching Unit™

Sample

Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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 **Prestwick House**

P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938
www.prestwickhouse.com
800.932.4593

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A Christmas Carol

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the students will be able to:

1. state their personal opinion of the book and provide specific details from the work to support their generalizations.
2. compare and contrast Dickens' style of writing with the style of other authors they have read.
3. discuss those elements in a Dickens' novel that prompt critics to say he is one of the greatest English authors.
4. point out examples of the author's evocative description of people and scenes.
5. state the major theme in *A Christmas Carol* and explain how it is developed.
6. comment on the social issues that Dickens raises in this book.
7. point out examples of Dickens' humor and comment on its delivery.
8. indicate the time frame in this story and point out how Dickens manipulates time.
9. identify the narrative voice used in this novel and point out its advantages.
10. define these literary terms from *A Christmas Carol* and cite examples of each:
 - satire
 - sentimentality
 - caricature
 - metaphor
 - tone
 - irony
 - point of view
 - symbol
 - simile
11. write a short character sketch of Scrooge, Tiny Tim, and Bob Cratchit.
12. discuss the roles that Scrooge's nephew and Marley play in this story.

A Christmas Carol

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the time frame in this story. When does it start, when does it end, and how much time goes by?
2. Why do you suppose Dickens called his book *A Christmas Carol*?
3. Although young Ebenezer Scrooge seems like a fine young man, he changes as he grows older. Why does he become so callous and hardhearted, and what point is Dickens making in presenting this change in Scrooge? What does Scrooge's changed attitude at the end reflect?
4. After you have read this story, what would you infer is Dickens' attitude about organized religion?
5. Was Jacob Marley's character important or extraneous to this story?
6. Describe the author's depiction of Tiny Tim.
7. Point out examples of symbolism you see in this story.
8. Satire is an exposing and ridiculing of vice and folly. With this idea in mind, what aspect of society or individuals is Dickens satirizing?
9. Point out some descriptive passages in the novel where Dickens' love for the Christmas season can be seen.
10. Point out examples of sentimentality and caricature in this novel.
11. For what reasons do you suppose Dickens is considered one of England's greatest writers?
12. Discuss the point of view from which this story is told and point out what advantages this type of narration affords the author.

A Christmas Carol

Stave I: Marley's Ghost

1. In his prefatory note, what do you think Dickens is saying?

2. What is meant by the phrase, "...and Scrooge's name was good upon [the exchange], for anything he choose to put his hand to"?

3. What does the author say has to be understood before this story can be of any significance?

4. Why do you suppose the author refers to Hamlet and his father?

5. Why is Marley's being dead so important to this story?

29. What do you believe Marley is referring to in the above sentence?

“Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life’s opportunities misused!”

30. When Scrooge comments on how Marley had always been a good businessman, what does Marley say was his true business, and how should it have been conducted?

31. Why does Marley say he suffers most this particular time of year?

32. What is Marley’s warning to Scrooge?

33. What is comic in Scrooge’s response to the ghost in the last page and a half of this chapter?

34. When Marley’s ghost goes out the window, Scrooge sees many chained, anguished spectres floating about. What is the reader told is the “Misery with them all?” What is the point of the comment that Dickens is making?

35. What is a major theme of this stave?

Stave V: The End of It

1. In the beginning of Stave Five, Scrooge is delighted to be back in his own bed and his own room. But what is the “best and happiest of all?”

2. Explain what Scrooge means when he says, “The shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be. I know they will!”

3. What is it that reassures Scrooge that the Ghosts have really visited him and that it has all really happened?

4. What is it that Scrooge begins to do that he has been out of practice for so many years? Describe it.

5. As Scrooge is out walking among the people of the city, several greet him by saying, “Good morning, Sir! A merry Christmas to you!” What does Scrooge say about those words?
