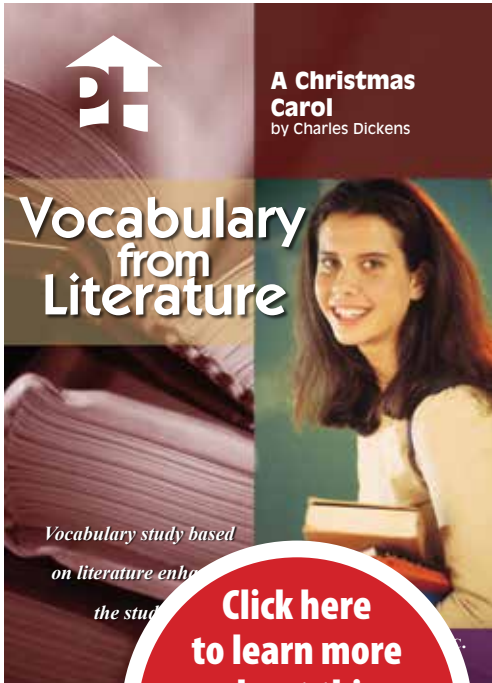




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Vocabulary from
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Vocabulary From Literature for...

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Written by Lora Stewart

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A Christmas Carol

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Vocabulary From Literature

Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from Charles Dickens' novel *A Christmas Carol*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the contexts in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and in other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal. Many unfamiliar words not covered by the Unit are defined in a Glossary following the Activities section; the Glossary may also contain slang expressions and proper nouns.

Rather than matching *A Christmas Carol* chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives.

In addition, activities may vary slightly among the various chapters.

All page references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *A Christmas Carol*, published 2005.

Activity I

Objective: Using a dictionary to find definitions and interpret them

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate definition or synonym(s)

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Activity II
Writing Definitions, Synonyms, and Sentences
from Context Clues
Stave I

Directions: Carefully read each excerpt from these chapters and try to determine the definition or synonym for the indicated vocabulary word based on the context clues. Then, write a sentence using each word. As a last resort, you may consult a dictionary.

1. Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. How could it be otherwise? Scrooge and he were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his **sole** executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend and sole mourner. (Pg. 11)

Synonym for **sole**:

2. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? when will you come to see me?" No beggars **implored** him to bestow a **trifle**, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge. (Pg. 12)

Synonym for **implored**:

Definition for **trifle**:

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Activity II
Definitions from Context Clues
Stave 2

Directions: For each excerpt from this stave, select the correct definition from the choices provided for each vocabulary word. As a last resort, you may use the dictionary but the definition you select for each word must make sense in the context it is being used in the passage.

1. Scrooge went to bed again, and thought, and thought, and thought it over and over and over, and could make nothing of it. The more he thought, the more **perplexed** he was; and the more he endeavoured not to think, the more he thought. (Pg. 28)

Definition for **perplexed**:

- A. persistent
- B. confused
- C. worried
- D. convinced
- E. mysterious

2. Scrooge reverently disclaimed all intention to offend, or any knowledge of having wilfully “bonneted” the Spirit at any period of his life. He then made bold to inquire what business brought him there.

“Your welfare!” said the Ghost.

Scrooge expressed himself much obliged, but could not help thinking that a night of unbroken rest would have been more conducive to that end. The Spirit must have heard him thinking, for it said immediately:

“Your reclamation, then. Take heed!” (Pgs. 29-30)

Definition for **reverently**:

- A. quietly
- B. persistently
- C. loudly
- D. respectfully
- E. explicitly

Definition for **conducive**:

- A. contributive
- B. helpful
- C. important
- D. pragmatic
- E. perceptive

Definition for **reclamation**:

- A. recalcitrance
- B. rebirth
- C. rationalization
- D. reflection
- E. rehabilitation

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Activity V
Roots and Prefixes
Stave 2

- I. The word *contradiction* comes from the Latin prefix *contra*, “against,” and root *dictus*, “speaking.” For each of the *dict* words in the left column below, look up a definition. Then, based on what you find, match each word with the meaning of its prefix.

word	prefix meaning
1. addiction	A. out from
2. verdict	B. before
3. prediction	C. good, well
4. benediction	D. toward
5. jurisdiction	E. law
6. edict	F. true

- II. The root *cedere* means “to go.” Add each prefix below to *cedere* to make as many words as you can. Then define each word. The first is done for you.

prefix	+ <i>cedere</i>	word	definition
1. pre		<u>precede</u>	<u>to go before</u>
2. inter		_____	_____
3. super		_____	_____
4. re		_____	_____
5. ex		_____	_____
6. con		_____	_____
7. pro		_____	_____

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Activity I
Matching Definitions
Staves 4-5

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

change (62) excrescence (63) resolutions (64) offal (64)
calico (67) dumb (67) unanimity (79) malady (80)

1. _____ white or unbleached cotton with no printed design
2. _____ having no power of speech; mute
3. _____ plans, decisions, aspirations
4. _____ place where merchants meet to transact business; an exchange
5. _____ a growth on the body or on an organ of the body
6. _____ complete agreement in opinion; unanimous
7. _____ any disordered or disturbed condition
8. _____ internal parts of an animal, such as the heart or liver

dialogue (67) alteration (80) array (79) sepulchers (64)
quantity (62) extravagance (75) repute (64)

9. _____ a change, modification
10. _____ burial vaults, tombs, or graves
11. _____ a conversation in which two or more take part
12. _____ measure, amount
13. _____ public opinion; general report
14. _____ extreme excess in behavior or speech, lavishness
15. _____ an arrangement