Worksheet 4 – Stave Two: 'Marley was dead'

Review: Lecture 3

In the third lecture of the unit, Prof. John McRae introduced some further historical context for *A Christmas Carol*, including information about the industrial revolution and Christmas traditions.

✓ Name two factors that influenced the increasing popularity of Christmas in the nineteenth century.

Recall: Lecture 4

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. What is the name of the first stave of *A Christmas Carol*?
   a) Ebenezer Scrooge
   b) The Miser
   c) Marley's Ghost
   d) The Night Before Christmas

2. What is the name of Scrooge's business?
   a) Scrooge and Marley
   b) Marley and Scrooge
   c) Scrooge and Associates
   d) Ebenezer's

Analysis

3. Prof. McRae discusses the impact of punctuation in Dickens's writing. What is the effect of the exclamation marks in the quotation below? *Write your answer in full sentences.*

   Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind- stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!

4. How does Dickens use imagery to present Scrooge's character? *Annotate <u>three</u> images in the quotation below, discussing their effect on the reader.*

   Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin.

Evaluation

5. Look at the etymology of the word 'miser', then answer the question below.

   miser (*n.*)
   1540s, "miserable person, wretch," from Latin *miser* (*adj.*) "unhappy, wretched, pitiable, in distress." The oldest English sense now is obsolete; the main modern meaning of "money-hoarding person" ("one who in wealth conducts himself as one afflicted with poverty" - Century Dictionary) is recorded by 1560s, from the presumed unhappiness of such people. The older sense is preserved in miserable, misery, etc.

Based on the etymology of the word 'miser', to what extent do you think that Scrooge can be described as 'miserly'? *Write a paragraph explaining your response, using quotations from the novella as evidence.*

Glossary

- **Firm** – (*noun*) a privately owned business or company.

- **Acumen** – the ability to make good judgements and take quick decisions.

- **Miser** – someone who hoards money; a selfish or miserable person.

- **Rime** – frost formed on cold objects by the rapid freezing of water vapour in cloud or fog.