

Worksheet 6 – Stave One: Scrooge Goes Home

Review: Lecture 5

In the fifth lecture of the unit, Prof. John McRae explored the treatment of the poor in Victorian England.

- ✓ How long ago had Jacob Marley died before the start of the novella's plot?

Recall: Lecture 6

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

1. What is the first Christmas carol that the reader hears sung in the novella?
 - a) 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'
 - b) 'Silent Night'
 - c) 'God Bless you Merry Gentlemen'
 - d) 'Hark the Herald Angel Sings'

2. What does Scrooge see when he looks at his doorknob?
 - a) His own face
 - b) Marley's face
 - c) The spirit of Christmas
 - d) A Christmas tree reflected

Analysis

3. In the extract below, highlight one example of each of the following language features:
 - a) Pathetic fallacy
 - b) Personification
 - c) Short sentences
 - d) Complex sentences

Meanwhile the fog and darkness thickened so, that people ran about with flaring links, proffering their services to go before horses in carriages, and conduct them on their way. The ancient tower of a church, whose gruff old bell was always peeping slyly down at Scrooge out of a Gothic window in the wall, became invisible, and struck the hours and quarters in the clouds, with tremulous vibrations afterwards as if its teeth were chattering in its frozen head up there. The cold became intense. In the main street, at the corner of the court, some labourers were repairing the gas-pipes, and had lighted a great fire in a brazier, round which a party of ragged men and boys were gathered: warming their hands and winking their eyes before the blaze in rapture. The water-plug being left in solitude, its overflowings sullenly congealed, and turned to misanthropic ice. The brightness of the shops where holly sprigs and berries crackled in the lamp heat of the windows, made pale faces ruddy as they passed. Poulterers' and grocers' trades became a splendid joke: a glorious pageant, with which it was next to impossible to believe that such dull principles as bargain and sale had anything to do.

[...]

[Scrooge] lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands.

4. Annotate each quotation you have identified, exploring the effect it has on the reader.

Evaluation

5. Prof. McRae describes Dickens's use of language in this section as 'cinematic in its beauty'. How does Dickens create a vivid setting through his use of language in Stave One?

Success criteria:

- ✓ Write your answer as three analytical paragraphs.
- ✓ Use quotations from the extract on this sheet as evidence.
- ✓ Ensure you discuss the effect of language on the reader.

Glossary

- **Links** – (*noun*) torches made of flax fibre
- **Tremulous** – (*adjective*) shaking; nervous.
- **Rapture** – (*noun*) a feeling of intense pleasure or joy.
- **Cinematic** – (*adjective*) having qualities characteristic of films; highly visual.