

## Worksheet 7 – Stave One: Marley’s Ghost

### Review: Lecture 6

In the sixth lecture of the unit, Prof. John McRae explored Dickens’s description of setting at the start of the novella.

- ✓ What does Scrooge see when he looks at his doorknob on getting home?

### Recall: Lecture 7

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

1. Complete the missing words from the quotations below:
  - a) ‘There’s more of \_\_\_\_\_ than of grave about you’
  - b) ‘I wear the chain I \_\_\_\_\_ in life’
  - c) ‘My spirit never walked beyond our \_\_\_\_\_’

### Analysis

2. In his lecture Prof. McRae says that the quotation below reveals something about the ‘psychology’ of Scrooge as a character: ‘[the ghost is] a manifestation of something going on in Scrooge’s head [...] a manifestation of what he is tortured about inside’.

If each smooth tile had been a blank at first, with power to shape some picture on its surface from the disjointed fragments of his thoughts, there would have been a copy of old Marley’s head on every one.

- a) In your own words, explain what Prof. McRae means by his statement.
- b) To what extent do you agree with Prof. McRae? *Refer to the language of the quotation above in your answer.*

### Evaluation

3. Ghost stories and “gothic” literature were very popular in the Victorian era. Using online research, find out five facts about Victorians’ interest in ghosts.

*Hint: This article by Kira Cochrane is a useful starting point for your research*

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/dec/23/ghost-stories-victorians-spookily-good>

4. Read the extract below. Dickens creates a mysterious and frightening atmosphere in this passage. Give three examples of how he does this, and explain them in detail.

*Challenge: In your answer, include references to the context you researched for Question 5.*

The same face: the very same. Marley in his pig-tail, usual waistcoat, tights, and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel. His body was transparent: so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the two buttons on his coat behind.

Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now. No, nor did he believe it even now.

Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him; though he felt the chilling influence of its death-cold eyes; and marked the very texture of the folded kerchief bound about its head and chin, which wrapper he had not observed before: he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.

### Glossary

- **Psychology** – the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behaviour in a given context.
- **Manifestation** – an appearance of a ghost or spirit; the action or fact of showing something.
- **Unbidden** – uninvited
- **Free indirect speech** – a style of third-person narration which uses some of the characteristics of third-person along with the essence of first-person direct speech. Through this style of narration the third-person narrator can speak the thoughts of the characters they describe.
- **Emblematic** – serving as a symbol of a particular quality or concept; symbolic.