

Worksheet 8 – Stave Two: Back to School

Review: Lecture 7

In the seventh lecture of the unit, Prof. John McRae explored the introduction of Marley's ghost.

- ✓ Complete the quotations below:

'There's more of _____ than of grave about you'
'I wear the chain I _____ in life'

Recall: Lecture 8

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

1. Complete the quotations that Prof. Mc Rae reads out in the lecture:
 - a) He was conscious of a thousand _____ floating in the air
 - b) A _____ child
 - c) Why, it's Ali _____!

Analysis

2. Prof. McRae explains how throughout the novella 'the authorial persona is with us' as readers. Looking at the quotation below, explain what effect is created by having the narrator speak to the reader in the first person.

Scrooge, starting up into a half-recumbent attitude, found himself face to face with the unearthly visitor who drew [the curtains]: as close to it as I am now to you, and I am standing in the spirit at your elbow.

3. Read below the description of the first spirit, the Ghost of Christmas Past.
 - a) Highlight three pieces of imagery that you find significant.
 - b) For each phrase you have highlighted, write an explanation of what this shows you about the Ghost.

It was a strange figure--like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white, as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength. Its legs and feet, most delicately formed, were, like those upper members, bare. It wore a tunic of the purest white; and round its waist was bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which was beautiful. It held a branch of fresh green holly in its hand and in singular contradiction of that wintry emblem, had its dress trimmed with summer flowers. But the strangest thing about it was, that from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light, by which all this was visible; and which was doubtless the occasion of its using, in its duller moments, a great extinguisher for a cap, which it now held under its arm.

Evaluation

4. In his lecture, Prof. McRae explains how Dickens wanted to 'awaken people's consciences'

to child abuse and show that ‘the imagination is fundamental to humanity’.

This is a concept that is now recognised by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects ‘the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts’ (Article 31).

Write a letter to the Department for Education campaigning for students to have increased time for imaginative play in secondary school. Use quotations from *A Christmas Carol* for evidence of why this is an important right for children to have.

Glossary

- **Supernatural** – (of a manifestation or event) attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.
- **Proustian** – relating to or characteristic of the French writer Marcel Proust or his works, particularly with reference to the recovery of the lost past and the stimulation of unconscious memory.
- **Transformation** – a marked change in form, nature, or appearance.