

Worksheet 13 – Stave Four: ‘When did he die?’

Review: Lecture 12

In Lecture 12, Prof. McRae explored Dickens’s representation of poverty.

- ✓ What was the title and date of the poem by William Blake that inspired Dickens?

Recall: Lecture 13

Answer this question after watching the lecture, to see how much you remember.

1. What are the jobs of the women who steal Scrooge’s possessions? Choose the two correct answers.

- a) A charwoman
- b) A nurse
- c) A laundress
- d) An undertaker’s wife

2. What word does the narrator use to describe Scrooge’s corpse as it lies under the sheet?

- a) A dead body
- b) A lump
- c) A ghost
- d) A something

Challenge: How does this description create a sense of horror?

Analysis

3. In his lecture, Prof. McRae explains the significance of Dickens’s use of listed adjectives in his writing. Look at the quotations from each stave below, and write a brief summary of the effect of the **adjectives** in each quotation.

Consider:

- ✓ What atmosphere do they create?
- ✓ What do they tell you about Scrooge as a character?

a) Stave One:

The cold within him froze his **old** features, nipped his **pointed** nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes **red**, his **thin** lips **blue**; and spoke out shrewdly in his **grating** voice.

Effect of adjectives:

b) Stave Two:

a **long, bare, melancholy** room, made barer still by lines of **plain deal** forms and desks. At one of these a **lonely** boy was reading near a **feeble** fire; and Scrooge sat down upon a form, and wept to see his **poor forgotten** self as he used to be.

Effect of adjectives:

c) Stave Three:

they were **happy, grateful, pleased** with one another, and **contented** with the time; and when they faded, and looked happier yet in the **bright** sprinklings of the Spirit's torch at parting, Scrooge had his eye upon them, and especially on Tiny Tim, until the last.

Effect of adjectives:

d) Stave Four:

plundered and **bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared** for, was the body of this man

Effect of adjectives:

Evaluation

4. Using your language analysis for question 2) to help you, answer the question below:

To what extent has Scrooge changed as a character by Stave Four?

Success criteria:

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

Glossary

- **Charwoman** – a paid part-time worker who comes into a house or other building to clean it for a few hours of a day or week, as opposed to a maid, who usually lives as part of the household within the structure of domestic service.
- **Spectre** – ghost or spirit.
- **Deal** – softwood timbre, like pine, used for cheaper furniture.
- **Bereft** – sad for something lacking