

Worksheet 15 – Stave Five: The End of It

Review: Lecture 14

In Lecture 14 – the penultimate lecture in this series – Prof. McRae explored the future vision of Tiny Tim's death and Scrooge's own grave.

- ✓ Complete the quotation from Scrooge:

"I will _____ Christmas in my heart."

Recall: Lecture 15

Answer these questions after watching the lecture, to see how much you remember.

1. What does Scrooge give to the Cratchit family on Christmas morning?
a) Money
b) A cab ride
c) Presents
d) A turkey
2. Complete the quotation, describing the Christmas meal at Fred's house:

"Wonderful part, wonderful game, wonderful _____"

Analysis

3. Scrooge undergoes a transformation across the novella. For each quotation below, find who says it and which stave it comes from in the novel. Then choose three key quotations and annotate them for: language features; what they show you about Scrooge as a character.
 - 'Hang your Tim, for all I care.'
 - 'Hard and sharp as flint from which no steel ever struck warming fire'
 - 'no one every stopped Scrooge in the street with a "My dear Scrooge, how are you? Will you come and see me?"'
 - 'And if they would rather die they had better do it and decrease the surplus population'
 - 'I wear the chain I forged in life'
 - 'a solitary child abandoned by his father'
 - 'spirit, show me no more. Why do you delight to torture me?'
 - 'Spirit, tell me if Tiny Tim will live.'
 - 'I hope to live a better man.'
 - 'I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year.'
 - 'I'm as light as a feather'

Evaluation

4. Starting with this extract, how does Dickens show the transformation of Scrooge's character in A Christmas Carol? Write your answer as a complete essay.

Write about:

- ✓ how Dickens show the transformation in this extract
- ✓ how Dickens show the transformation in the novel as a whole.

This extract is taken from the very end of the novel.

"Hallo," growled Scrooge, in his accustomed voice, as near as he could feign it. "What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?"

"I'm very sorry, sir," said Bob. "I am behind my time."

"You are?" repeated Scrooge. "Yes. I think you are. Step this way, if you please."

"It's only once a year, sir," pleaded Bob, appearing from the Tank. "It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir."

"Now, I'll tell you what, my friend," said Scrooge, "I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore," he continued, leaping from his stool, and giving Bob such a dig in the waistcoat that he staggered back into the Tank again; "and therefore I am about to raise your salary."

Bob trembled, and got a little nearer to the ruler. He had a momentary idea of knocking Scrooge down with it, holding him, and calling to the people in the court for help and a strait-waistcoat.

"A merry Christmas, Bob," said Scrooge, with an earnestness that could not be mistaken, as he clapped him on the back. "A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you for many a year. I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob. Make up the fires, and buy another coalscuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit!"

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.

He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us, Every One!

Glossary

- **Laocoön** – a famous statue of an Ancient Greek legend. Laocoön was a Trojan priest who was attacked, with his two sons, by giant serpents sent by the gods. To describe something by referring to this statue is to imply something is entwined and impossibly tangled.
- **Unanimity** – agreement by all people involved; consensus.
- **Animus** – a basic attitude or governing spirit.
- **Transformation** – a marked change in form, nature, or appearance.



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