

A Christmas Carol Knowledge Organiser

Key quotations	
Scrooge	'as solitary as an oyster' 'as hard and sharp as flint' 'squeezing, wrenching, grasping, covetous old sinner' 'tight-fisted hand at the grindstone' 'no warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill' 'Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?' 'decrease the surplus population' 'a solitary boy neglected by his friends' 'lonely boy sitting by a feeble fire' "Nothing. There was a boy singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given him something: that's all" "if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it" ' Scrooge hung his head to hear his own words quoted by the Spirit, and was overcome with penitence and grief' "Spirit!" he cried, tight clutching at its robe, "hear me. I am not the man I was" "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future" "I am as giddy as a schoolboy" "Not a farthing less. A great many back payments are included in it" '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'
Marley	' Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail' "I wear the chain I forged in life...I made it link by link, yard by yard, and of my own free will I wore it" ' The chain was made up of cash boxes, ledgers, heavy purses' "Mankind was my business! [...] The deals of my trade were but a drop in the comprehensive ocean of my business"
Ghost of Christmas Past	'like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man' ' from the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light' " would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give. Is it not enough that you are one of those whose passions made this cap, and force me through whole trains of years to wear it low upon my brow" "Rise. And walk with me." "Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!"
Ghost of Christmas Present	'there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see, who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge' ' It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur' 'free as its genial face, its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air' "I see a vacant seat [...] in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die" "If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population" 'the ghost grew older, clearly older' 'From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable' "This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom"
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	'The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached. When it came, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery' 'Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him' "Spirit...I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now" ' Still the Ghost pointed downward to the grave by which it stood'
Belle	"Our contract is an old one" "Another idol has displaced me" "A golden one" "I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off, until the master passion, Gain engrosses you"
Fezziwig	"Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!" 'They shone in every part of the dance like moons' 'Fezziwig cut -- cut so deftly, that he appeared to wink with his legs' "The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune" "Yo ho there! Ebenezer! Dick! No more work tonight!"
Fred	"I have always thought of Christmas as a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time" "Don't be angry Uncle. Merry Christmas!" "I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him." "Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off."
Crachit family	' The clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like only one coal' 'dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown' 'his threadbare clothes darned up and brushed, to look seasonable' 'Alas for Tiny Tim, he bore a little crutch, and had his limbs supported by an iron frame' "he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see" 'Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon' 'Mrs Cratchit entered -- flushed, but smiling proudly -- with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball' ' Bob held his withered little hand in his, as if he loved the child, and wished to keep him by his side, and dreaded that he might be taken from him' "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"
Key themes and ideas	
Poverty, Fate, Charity, Transformation, Capitalism, Greed, Money, Redemption, Family, Friendship, Religion, Morality, Isolation/Loneliness, Choices, Memory and the past, Compassion, Forgiveness, Guilt and blame, Time, Rationality	Settings
	Scrooge's workplace, Scrooge's living room, Scrooge's bedroom, the village from Scrooge's childhood, Scrooge's school, Fezziwig's party, the Crachit residence, the streets of London, the Beetling shop, Fred's residence, the graveyard.

Social and Historical Context

Poverty	Industrial Revolution	The Workhouse	Capitalism
<p>The population of the towns and cities was increasing rapidly. Due to the effects of the industrial revolution, people were flocking into the towns and cities in search of employment. Large numbers of people were looking for work, so wages were low, barely above subsistence level. If work dried up, or was seasonal, men were laid off, and because they had hardly enough to live on when they were in work, they had no savings to fall back on. Living conditions for the poor were appalling- large houses were turned into flats and the landlords who owned them, were not concerned about the upkeep or the condition. These houses were extremely overcrowded and dirty. There were children living with their families in these desperate situations but there were also numerous homeless children living on the streets of London. Sometimes, the only water the poor had access to was from the sewage ditch in the street.</p>	<p>During the Victorian era, Britain became one of the world's primary economic powers. After the invention of steam power, many people moved from rural areas to the cities to search for higher paying work. The people who moved to the city in search of work were dubbed the "working class". Britain became an industrial hub and the economy was strong. With a sharp increase in production, Britain's trade industry increased drastically as well. Everything converted from traditional, manual labour to machine-driven, highly-productive labour. This caused a reduction in the amount of men needed for work, which therefore increased poverty levels and crime in the cities. Working with machinery was also more dangerous and life threatening for the workers.</p>	<p>The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 allowed the poor to receive public assistance only if they went to the workhouse. Workhouses were deliberately made to be miserable in order to deter the poor from relying on public assistance. In the workhouse, the poor had to work for their food and accommodation. Workhouses were appalling places and the poor would often beg on the streets or die to avoid going to these places. Upon entering the workhouse, the poor were stripped and bathed. If a family entered the workhouse, they were split up and they would be punished if they tried to speak to one another. Children received an education which did not include the two most important skills of all, reading and writing, which were needed to get a good job. They sometimes were 'hired out' to work in factories and mines where they were made to do dangerous and deadly jobs.</p>	<p>The word capital means "something of value". Capitalism is an economic system in which people who own the means of production (factories, land, shops, tools, machines, shipping companies etc.) are able to make a lot of money by producing what people want and need. Capitalism has a more or less free market economy. That means prices move up or down according to the availability of the products. The people who own the businesses (capitalists) produce these popular goods and employ workers on a wage to produce them. These workers use their skills to produce products which are then sold for a profit by the business owner. The profit is not shared with the employees. Some people argue that this system hurts workers, because businesses make more money by selling things than they pay the workers. Business owners become rich while workers remain poor and exploited.</p>
Dickens' ideas and intentions	Language		Structure and Form
<p>Dickens' writing criticised economic, social, and moral issues in the Victorian era. He showed compassion and empathy towards the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in English society, and help to bring about several important social reforms. Dickens' deep social commitment and awareness of social issues come from his traumatic childhood, where his father was imprisoned for debt, and he was forced to work in a shoe-blackening factory at 12 years old. In his adult life, Dickens developed a strong social conscience and empathised with the victims of social and economic injustice.</p> <p>Dickens' intention in A Christmas Carol is to draw readers' attention to the plight of the poor and to highlight the hypocrisy of Victorian society. He juxtaposes the wealth and greed of capitalists with the poorer classes and draws attention to the way in which the greed and selfishness of some impacts on the quality of the lives of others. His moral message appears to be that we should care for our fellow man. The transformation of Scrooge suggests that Dickens feels it is never too late for change and redemption. Dickens emphasises the importance of family, friendship and charity in bringing about this change.</p>	<p>Satire- use of humour or ridicule to criticise Asyndeton- list without conjunctions Polysyndeton- list with conjunctions (and) Simile- comparing using 'like' or 'as' Metaphor- saying one thing is another Personification- make object human Pathetic fallacy- weather to create mood Pathos- language to evoke pity Allusion- reference to another literary work Hyperbole- exaggerated statement Connotation- associated meaning of word Characterisation- built up description of character in text Semantic field- words related in meaning Imagery- visually descriptive language</p>		<p>Conflict- problem faced by characters Resolution- point where conflict is resolved Foreshadowing- clue about something later Foreboding- sense that something will occur Juxtaposition- two contrasted ideas Backstory- insight into character's past Exposition- revelation of something Poetic justice- good rewarded bad punished Melodrama- exaggerated characters/events Motif- repeated image or symbol Antithesis- contrast of ideas in same grammatical structure Authorial intrusion- where author pauses to speak directly to reader Allegory- characters/events represent ideas about religion, morals or politics</p>

