

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

CHARLES DICKENS

STAGE 3
B1
YOUNG ADULT READERS

ACTIVITIES

Put the correct time phrase or word into each gap.

a day - ~~after~~ - before - early - the end of the day
every night - immediately - the next day - once a year
tomorrow

0 After they had gone, there was the sound of singing from the street. A boy was singing a Christmas carol* outside the door. Scrooge took a book from his desk and threw it at the door and the singing 1 _____ stopped. The boy was singing for money and Scrooge certainly didn't want to give him any!

When 2 _____ arrived, Scrooge stood up.

"I suppose you will want all of 3 _____ off?" Scrooge asked his clerk.

"If that will not be a problem for you, sir?"

"Of course it's a problem," said Scrooge, "and it's not fair. I have to pay you for 4 _____ when you're not working!"

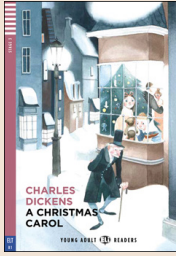
The clerk said that it was only 5 _____.

"But you are still taking money from my pocket! Be here extra 6 _____ 7 _____."

The clerk ran out into the streets and played in the snow with some children, 8 _____ running home to Camden Town to his young family.

Scrooge went to the small restaurant where 9 _____ he ate his dinner. He read the papers and then walked home.

ANSWERS: 1 immediately; 2 the end of the day; 3 tomorrow; 4 a day; 5 once a year; 6 early; 7 the next day; 8 before; 9 after.



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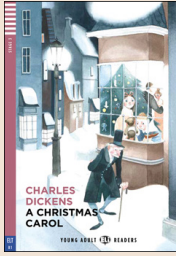
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TEST YOURSELF

Who is it?

	Name	Description
1		come to Scrooge's office on Christmas Eve asking for money for the poor
2		sings Christmas Carols outside Scrooge's office door
3		comes to his wish Scrooge a Merry Christmas and invite him to lunch the next day
4		lives in Camden with his young family
5		has long hair tied back, pulls a chain behind him
6		looks like a child but also like an old man
7		can't walk very well, dies young
8		is generous and gives his workers a Christmas party with music and food
9		was in love with Scrooge
10		wears a long, dark coat, head covered with a hood so you cannot see its face

1 two large men; 2 a boy; 3 Scrooge's nephew, Fred; 4 Bob Cratchit; 5 Jacob Marley; 6 The Ghost of Christmas Past; 7 Bob Cratchit's son, Tiny Tim; 8 Mr Fezziwig; 9 young woman called Belle; 10 The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.



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PET – Style reading activity

Read the text, then decide if the following sentences are true or false.

There was a knock at the door. In came the father of the family, followed by a man carrying presents.

The children started shouting with excitement and climbed onto the man, pulling presents out of his arms. The room filled with cries of happiness as the children opened their presents. Then someone saw that the baby had a small toy in her mouth. Everything stopped. Had she eaten any other toy? There were no toys missing, the baby was fine. Everyone started laughing, running and shouting again. At last, the children went upstairs to go to bed and the room was quiet.

The mother sat by the fire and the daughter, who looked so like her mother, sat by her father.

Scrooge's eyes filled with tears as he thought that this young girl might have called him father.

"Belle," the husband said, turning to his wife. "I saw an old friend of yours today."

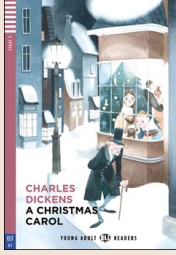
"Who?" said the wife, "Oh, don't tell me, I know! It was Scrooge."

"Yes," her husband answered. "I saw him through the window of his office. His old partner, Jacob Marley, is close to death I think and he's completely alone in this world."

"Ghost," said Scrooge, "take me away from here. I can't watch this!"

"I can't change the past," said the ghost, and his face seemed to be filled with all the faces of Scrooge's past.

Scrooge began to fight the ghost. He took his night hat and pushed it down over the ghost's head to put out its light. Then he fell into bed and went straight to



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PET – Style reading activity

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Two men came into the room carrying presents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The children started shouting and climbed onto their father. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Everyone got worried because the baby had a toy in her mouth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The children played for a time and then went upstairs to bed. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The daughter sat with her mother by the fire. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The girl's mother is the woman he might have married. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 When the girl's father sees Scrooge, Marley is close to death. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Scrooge is sad about not having a family, and fights the ghost because he wants to leave. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1F (the father was not carrying presents); 2F (they climbed onto the man carrying the presents); 3T; 4T; 5F; (she sat with her father, her mother sat by the fire); 6T; 7T; 8T.



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FOCUS ON...

Religious theme

The transformation of Scrooge is central to the story. The transformation is reflected in the description of Scrooge, who begins as a two-dimensional character, but who then grows into one who possesses an emotional depth and a regret for lost opportunities. Some writers, including Grace Moore, the Dickens scholar, consider that there is Christian theme running through *A Christmas Carol*, and that the novella should be seen as an allegory of the Christian concept of redemption. Dickens's biographer, Claire Tomalin sees the conversion of Scrooge as carrying the Christian message that "even the worst of sinners may repent and become a good man". Dickens's attitudes towards organised religion were complex, although he based his beliefs and principles within the New Testament. Dickens's statement that Marley "had no bowels" is a reference to the "bowels of compassion" mentioned in I John, the reason for his eternal

