



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## CHARLES DICKENS

STAGE 3  
B1  
YOUNG ADULT READERS

### ACTIVITY

Put the words in the right order to make questions.

- 0 What | matter? | is | the  
*What is the matter?*
- 1 they | small | Why | do | such | love | for | a | amount? | him  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What | heart? | fills | else | my  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I | to | of | you? | ever | free | asked | be | Have  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 do | want | to | like | Why | this? | suffer | you | me  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 you | Will | who | and | who | decide | dies? | lives  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 who | look | there | Isn't | them? | anyone | after | will  
\_\_\_\_\_

11 Why do they love him for such a small amount? 2 What else fills my heart?  
3 Have I ever asked to be free of you? 4 Why do you want me to suffer like  
this? 5 Will you decide who lives and who dies? 6 Isn't there anyone who will  
look after them?



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### TEST YOURSELF

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#### Who said this?

Belle - the Ghost of Christmas Present  
 the Ghost of Christmas Past - Mr Fezziwig  
 Bob Cratchit - the ghost of Jacob Marley  
 Scrooge's nephew, Fred - Scrooge

- 1 "What reason do you have to be so cross? You're rich enough."  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 "Are these the shadows of things that will be, or are they the shadows of the things that might be?"  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 "No more work tonight. It's Christmas Eve, Dick! Christmas Ebenezer! Go and close all the windows up as fast as you can!"  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 "I don't think you've seen anything like me before, have you?"  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 "He says such deep things," answered Bob, "he thinks about God a lot. He told me he hoped the people would see him in church and remember that God always tried to help children like him."  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 "I hope that for a short time you'll think of what you've lost and be sad. Then, very soon, you'll think of me only as a bad dream and be glad that I am gone."  
\_\_\_\_\_



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- 7 “She was always such a small child. You felt the wind might blow her away, but she had a large heart.”

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- 8 “I made this chain when I was alive. I made it piece by piece. I chose to make it and I chose to wear it because of how I lived my life. Don’t you recognise it?”

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### PET-Style Reading

Choose one word A, B, C or D for each space.

Ebenezer and Dick worked **1** \_\_\_\_\_ fast that the shop was empty in **2** \_\_\_\_\_ time. Everything was put **3** \_\_\_\_\_, the floor was washed, lights were lit and the fire was **4** \_\_\_\_\_. The work room was **5** \_\_\_\_\_ the warmest, driest and most comfortable dancing room you could wish **6** \_\_\_\_\_.

The musician arrived **7** \_\_\_\_\_ his violin. He climbed up onto Fezziwig's desk and began to practice his music **8** \_\_\_\_\_ loudly as if he were fifty musicians.

- |                 |               |                |                |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>1</b> A so   | <b>B</b> that | <b>C</b> if    | <b>D</b> while |
| <b>2</b> A any  | <b>B</b> no   | <b>C</b> some  | <b>D</b> most  |
| <b>3</b> A away | <b>B</b> off  | <b>C</b> out   | <b>D</b> in    |
| <b>4</b> A done | <b>B</b> out  | <b>C</b> made  | <b>D</b> on    |
| <b>5</b> A but  | <b>B</b> then | <b>C</b> so    | <b>D</b> now   |
| <b>6</b> A to   | <b>B</b> by   | <b>C</b> from  | <b>D</b> for   |
| <b>7</b> A at   | <b>B</b> with | <b>C</b> about | <b>D</b> over  |
| <b>8</b> A so   | <b>B</b> but  | <b>C</b> as    | <b>D</b> and   |



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FOCUS ON...

### DICKENS' LEGACY



Although the phrase “Merry Christmas” had been around for many years – the earliest known written use was in a letter in 1534 – Dickens’s use of the term in *A Christmas Carol* popularised the term among the Victorian public. The exclamation “Bah! Humbug!” entered popular use in the English language as a retort to anything sentimental or over festive; the name “Scrooge” became used as a designation for a miser, and was included into the Oxford English Dictionary as such in 1982. The modern observance of Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian

revival of the holiday. The Oxford Movement of the 1830s and 1840s had produced a resurgence of the traditional rituals and religious observances associated with Christmastide and, with *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens captured the zeitgeist of the age, while he reflected and reinforced his vision of Christmas. He advocated a humanitarian focus of the holiday, which influenced several aspects of Christmas that are still celebrated in Western culture, such as family gatherings, seasonal food and drink, dancing, games and a festive generosity of spirit. The historian Ronald Hutton writes that Dickens “linked worship and feasting, within a context of social reconciliation”.