A Christmas Carol

‘Fill it in’ revision booklet



Name: …………………………………………………………….

During Term 3 you will work through this booklet for the first 15 minutes of every English lesson. The booklet is designed to help you:

* Remember the events and key quotes of A Christmas Carol
* Develop your analysis of and response to the novel-meaning your ability to explain what quotes suggest about characters, why a character/place/event is important in the story etc.
* Consider context-Victorian life in 1843, and Dickens’ inspirations and intentions in writing the novel.
* In the boxes below you can find some advice and guidance about the style of writing you need:





Stave 1 revision MODEL EXAMPLE

“But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time… - as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely,”

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? | Fred comes to visit Scrooge’s office on Christmas eve and they argue over their different opinions about Christmas. |
| 2.How does this quote present Fred and his feelings about Christmas? | Dickens presents Fred in a very positive way when he talks to Scrooge. Fred sees Christmas as a special, unique time, “the only time” when people are deliberately kinder to each other. |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Fred’s positivity? How do they help? | The list of adjectives used by Fred “kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant” implies that there are plenty of positive aspects to Christmas, and describes the behaviour that ‘good’ people like Fred display at that time of year.  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
 | Fred’s happy attitude is a complete contrast to Scrooge’s, and hints at Dickens’ belief that people needed to show more compassion and kindness to each other, especially in terms of being “charitable” – Scrooge has money that he refuses to share or help others with. Fred’s list of adjectives describes the way Scrooge will eventually behave at the end of the novel, demonstrating the way Dickens wanted his wealthy readers to behave also.  |

HELP:

1. Look at the board – I’ll show you clues about the quote!
2. Start your answer with one of these phrases:

Dickens suggests…..conveys….implies…..presents….demonstrates….signals…..describes how…

As a reader I can infer…..recognise….understand….question….see…..am led to wonder…

1. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect in question 2.

Stave 1 revision

“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge…a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.”

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge as an outsider? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Scrooge is presented as an outsider?  |  |

HELP:

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Stave 1 revision

The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with the shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for them to part.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge as an employer? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s attitude? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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Stave 1 revision

``You wish to be anonymous?''

``I wish to be left alone,'' said Scrooge. ``Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned: they cost enough: and those who are badly off must go there.''

``Many can't go there [to the workhouses] ; and many would rather die.''

``If they would rather die,'' said Scrooge, ``they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides -- excuse me -- I don't know that.''

``But you might know it,'' observed the gentleman.

``It's not my business,'' Scrooge returned. ``It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!''

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| 1. Who is this conversation between?  |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s attitude to others? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s cruel disinterest? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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Stave 1 revision

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's-book, went home to bed. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and have forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, was fain to grope with his hands. The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house, that it seemed as if the Genius of the Weather sat in mournful meditation on the threshold.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this description of Scrooge’s habits and home suggest his character? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to suggest Scrooge’s character through his habits/home? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens uses the weather/temperature to suggest Scrooge’s character?  |  |

HELP:

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Stave 1 revision

“Marley's face. It was not in impenetrable shadow as the other objects in the yard were, but had a dismal light about it, like a bad lobster in a dark cellar. It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look: with ghostly spectacles turned up on its ghostly forehead. The hair was curiously stirred, as if by breath or hot air; and, though the eyes were wide open, they were perfectly motionless. That, and its livid colour, made it horrible; but its horror seemed to be in spite of the face and beyond its control, rather than a part of its own expression.”

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Marley’s ghost? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Marley’s host? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens uses sound to create a sense of fear around Marley’s ghost? |  |

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Stave 1 revision

``Man of the worldly mind!'' replied the Ghost, ``do you believe in me or not?''

``I do,'' said Scrooge. ``I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?''

``It is required of every man,'' the Ghost returned, ``that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- oh, woe is me! -- and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!''

Again the spectre raised a cry, and shook its chain, and wrung its shadowy hands.

``You are fettered,'' said Scrooge, trembling. ``Tell me why?''

``I wear the chain I forged in life,'' replied the Ghost. ``I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to**you**?''

Scrooge trembled more and more.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Marley’s ghost and its torment? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Marley’s ghost’s torment? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting the ghost’s feelings in this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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Stave 2 revision

When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber. He was endeavouring to pierce the darkness with his ferret eyes, when the chimes of a neighbouring church struck the four quarters. So he listened for the hour.

To his great astonishment the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight, and regularly up to twelve; then stopped. Twelve! It was past two when he went to bed. The clock was wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. Twelve!

He touched the spring of his repeater, to correct this most preposterous clock. Its rapid little pulse beat twelve: and stopped.

``Why, it isn't possible,'' said Scrooge, ``that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!''

The idea being an alarming one, he scrambled out of bed, and groped his way to the window. He was obliged to rub the frost off with the sleeve of his dressing-gown before he could see anything; and could see very little then.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote, describing the darkness, cold and the bells, create tension? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to create tension? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in using church bells in his tense description? What could church bells nearby to Scrooge connote? |  |

Stave 2 revision

It was a strange figure -- like a child: yet not so like a child as like an old man, viewed through some supernatural medium, which gave him the appearance of having receded from the view, and being diminished to a child's proportions. Its hair, which hung about its neck and down its back, was white as if with age; and yet the face had not a wrinkle in it, and the tenderest bloom was on the skin. The arms were very long and muscular; the hands the same, as if its hold were of uncommon strength.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present the Ghost of Christmas Past? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the ghost and its contradictions?  |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting the ghost this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
 |  |

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Stave 2 revision

``The school is not quite deserted,'' said the Ghost. ``A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.''

Scrooge said he knew it. And he sobbed.

….They went, the Ghost and Scrooge, across the hall, to a door at the back of the house. It opened before them, and disclosed 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.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s childhood and his reaction to it? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s childhood/reaction? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens suggest Scrooge’s childhood was unhappy? |  |

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Stave 2 revision

``Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!''

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shows to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

… ``Yo ho, my boys!'' said Fezziwig. ``No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up,'' cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, ``before a man can say, Jack Robinson!''

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Fezziwig? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Fezziwig positively? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Fezziwig this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
 |  |

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Stave 2 revision

``A small matter,'' said the Ghost, ``to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.''

``Small!'' echoed Scrooge.

The Spirit signed to him to listen to the two apprentices, who were pouring out their hearts in praise of Fezziwig: and when he had done so, said,

``Why! Is it not? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?''

``It isn't that,'' said Scrooge, heated by the remark, and speaking unconsciously like his former, not his latter, self. ``It isn't that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count 'em up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.''

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s changing attitude? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s attitude? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when past memories begin to inspire a change in Scrooge? |  |

Stave 2 revision

For again Scrooge saw himself. He was older now; a man in the prime of life. His face had not the harsh and rigid lines of later years; but it had begun to wear the signs of care and avarice. There was an eager, greedy, restless motion in the eye, which showed the passion that had taken root, and where the shadow of the growing tree would fall.

He was not alone, but sat by the side of a fair young girl in a mourning-dress: in whose eyes there were tears, which sparkled in the light that shone out of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

``It matters little,'' she said, softly. ``To you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve.''

``What Idol has displaced you?'' he rejoined.

``A golden one.''

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s greed? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge’s greed? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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Stave 3 revision

The house fronts looked black enough, and the windows blacker… The sky was gloomy, and the shortest streets were choked up with a dingy mist, half thawed, half frozen, whose heavier particles descended in shower of sooty atoms, as if all the chimneys in Great Britain had, by one consent, caught fire, and were blazing away to their dear hearts' content. There was nothing very cheerful in the climate or the town, and yet was there an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavoured to diffuse in vain.

For the people who were shovelling away on the housetops were jovial and full of glee; calling out to one another from the parapets, and now and then exchanging a facetious snowball -- better-natured missile far than many a wordy jest -- laughing heartily if it went right and not less heartily if it went wrong.

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| 1. Where’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this description present London society? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present society? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting society this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
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 |  |

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Stave 3 revision

``And how did little Tim behave?'' asked Mrs Cratchit…

``As good as gold,'' said Bob, ``and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that 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.''

Bob's voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Bob’s character? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Bob’s character? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Can you think of another point in the novel when Dickens presents Bob’s character? |  |

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Stave 3 revision

It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. When Scrooge's nephew laughed in this way: holding his sides, rolling his head, and twisting his face into the most extravagant contortions: Scrooge's niece, by marriage, laughed as heartily as he. And their assembled friends being not a bit behindhand, roared out lustily.

``Ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, ha!''

``He said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live!'' cried Scrooge's nephew. ``He believed it too!''

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Fred? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help? |  |
| 4.Look carefully at this line – what do you think Dickens means?  | …that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good-humour. |

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Stave 3 revision

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

``Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!'' exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present the children? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the children? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting the children in this way?Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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Stave 3 revision

`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, unless the writing be erased….’

…..``Have they no refuge or resource?'' cried Scrooge.

``Are there no prisons?'' said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. ``Are there no workhouses?'

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote suggest the message the ghost wants Scrooge to understand? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the message? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be the message Dickens wants readers (then AND now) to understand? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
 |  |

HELP:

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Stave 4 revision

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. It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present the ghost of Christmas yet to come? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present the ghost? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting the ghost of the future in such a terrifying way?- *Remember it’s the ghost of Scrooge’s future, but also of society’s future (if nothing changes*) |  |

HELP:

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Stave 4 revision

``Ha, ha!'' laughed the same woman, when old Joe, producing a flannel bag with money in it, told out their several gains upon the ground. ``This is the end of it, you see! He frightened every one away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead! Ha, ha, ha!''

``Spirit!'' said Scrooge, shuddering from head to foot. ``I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now. Merciful Heaven, what is this!''

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge-how others saw him, and his reaction (now) to this?  |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ purpose in including the characters of the 4 thieves – is their behaviour shocking to us? Why?  |  |

HELP:

1. Look at the board – I’ll show you clues about the quote!
2. Start your answer with one of these phrases:
	1. Dickens suggests…..conveys….implies…..presents….demonstrates….signals…..describes how…
	2. As a reader I can infer…..recognise….understand….question….see…..am led to wonder…
3. Check your glossary to remind yourself of terminology, then select a word/phrase that especially helps to achieve the effect in question 2.

Stave 4 revision

He recoiled in terror, for the scene had changed, and now he almost touched a bed: a bare, uncurtained bed: on which, beneath a ragged sheet, there lay a something covered up, which, though it was dumb, announced itself in awful language.

The room was very dark, too dark to be observed with any accuracy, though Scrooge glanced round it in obedience to a secret impulse, anxious to know what kind of room it was. A pale light, rising in the outer air, fell straight upon the bed; and on it, plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for, was the body of this man.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge’s body? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge lonely body? How do they help? |  |
| 4**.Knowledge question:**Whose death does the reader hear about next? And how is their death reacted to differently? |  |

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Stave \_\_\_ revision

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| 1. Who says this or who’s being described? What is this quote about? |  |
| 2.How does this quote present Scrooge as an outsider? |  |
| 3.Can you identify any language features that particularly help to present Scrooge as an outsider? How do they help? |  |
| 4.What might be Dickens’ intention in presenting Scrooge this way? Think about:* *Things Dickens liked and disliked in Victorian society*
* *The values, attitudes and behaviours Dickens wanted people to have*
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