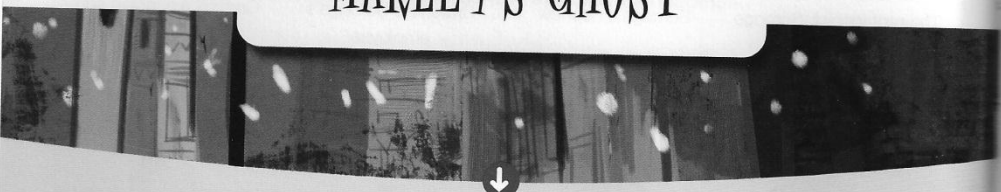




CHAPTER 1  
MARLEY'S GHOST



STARTING OFF

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1) What other books by Charles Dickens do you know?  
.....
- 2) Look at the photo above. Where do you think the story takes place?  
.....
- 3) Write down five Christmas words you think you will find in the novel.  
.....

EXAMPLE: snow - (1) ..... (2) ..... (3) ..... (4) ..... (5)

1 Before I start my story, I want to tell you one important fact: Marley is dead. There is no doubt about this. The clergyman, the clerk, the **undertaker**, and his business partner, Ebenezer Scrooge, all signed the register of his burial.

Yes, Scrooge and Marley were business partners, but Scrooge was not sad when Marley died. Scrooge didn't love anyone. He only loved and cared for his business and his money. Instead of attending Marley's funeral, Scrooge worked and he made money, just like any other day.

Scrooge, like Marley, was not a kind man; he was a cold, cruel and heartless old man. He had no friends, no companions and he surely didn't have anyone to love. Nobody stopped him in the street to say, "Good day, Sir, how are you?" No **beggars** asked him for spare change. No children asked him for the time. No man or woman ever asked him for directions. Everyone just ignored Scrooge and this is exactly how he wanted his life. He wanted to be alone with his money. At this point I must remind you that Marley is dead – this is important and you must remember this, or you will not experience the magic and wonder of this story.

Once upon a time, on a dark and cold Christmas Eve, Scrooge sat busily working in his **counting house**. It was only three o'clock, but it was as dark as night already. The door of Scrooge's counting house was open so that he could observe his clerk, Bob Cratchit. Cratchit was Scrooge's only worker. He worked in a tiny and cold room copying letters. It was cold and dark in Scrooge's office because he did not like spending money on coal for the fire or on oil for the lamps. Scrooge thought that spending money on heat was a waste of money. For this reason Scrooge had a very small fire burning in his room, but Cratchit's fire was even smaller! Cratchit's office was so cold that he wore his coat, hat and scarf.

Cratchit was very poor and his clothes were cold and in terrible condition. Scrooge was a very rich man, he had all the money in the world, but he gave little money to poor Bob Cratchit.

**Undertaker:** funeral director  
**Beggars:** people who ask for money on the streets  
**Counting house:** accountant's office

Suddenly Scrooge's nephew entered the room and shouted.

"Merry Christmas, uncle!"

"Bah!" said Scrooge. "**Humbug!**"

"Christmas a humbug uncle, you are not serious, are you?"

"I am," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! Why should you be Merry? You're poor enough!"

"Well then," replied his nephew happily, "why should you be unhappy? You're rich enough!"

Scrooge looked angrily at his nephew and **muttered**, "Humbug!"

"Don't be mad, uncle."

"But I am surrounded by fools! How can I not be mad? These idiots go around saying 'Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas!' But I hate Christmas and I hate these idiots!"

"Uncle!"

"Nephew, you celebrate Christmas in your way, and I'll celebrate it in my way."

"But you don't celebrate it," replied Fred. "Why don't you spend Christmas day with my family and me?"

"Humbug!" replied Scrooge.

"I am sorry that you are so stubborn, uncle. We have never had an **argument**, so why can't we be friends? I have tried to show you Christmas Spirit, but you refuse to be merry. So I will now leave you to your work. Sorry to disturb you. A Merry Christmas to you, uncle!"

"Balderdash!"

"And A Happy New Year!" Replied Fred.

After a while two **wealthy** gentlemen came into Scrooge's office. "Good afternoon, sir. Are you Mr Marley, or Mr Scrooge?"

Scrooge looked up, irritated at the interruption. "Mr Scrooge. Mr Marley has been dead for seven years this very night."

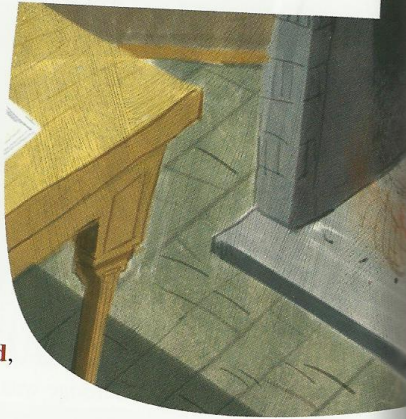
"Well, Mr Scrooge, a few of us are donating some food and drink, and clothes to the poor. What can you donate?"

"Nothing," Scrooge replied. "I would like to be left alone. I do not celebrate Christmas, so I will not pay for poor. Are there no **work-**

**houses?** No prisons?"

"Well, yes," replied one of the men.

"Well, I help to support the workhouses and the prisons, they cost enough. Why can't the poor go there?"



"Because those are te will you give us?"

"Nothing," said Scroo poor. Good afternoon

The gentlemen were ho

The day continued an

lamps turned on.

Scrooge called Cratch

"You'll want the whole

"I-if that is okay, sir,"

"It's not okay and it's n

if you must have the wh

Cratchit smiled and ag

and went their separate

all...it was Christmas E

Scrooge walked slowly

As he walked up the fe

It was quite large and p

thought he saw some

knocker! Scrooge took

was just a normal knock

side, locking the door b

room. The darkness of t

liked cheap. Scrooge en

sat by the fire. Then Scro

Suddenly, the bell began

ring! Scrooge covered hi

After several minutes the

tened to the silence and b

but it started to get loude

Scrooge sat and listened c

maybe on the floor below

**Humbug:** nonsense  
**Muttered:** spoke quietly  
**Argument:** fight  
**Wealthy:** rich  
**Workhouse:** a place where the poor had to work

**Lack:** absence  
**Gloomy:** miserable  
**Glanced:** looked quickly  
**Cheap:** inexpensive  
**Chains:** a connected flexible se

"Because those are terrible places, Mr. Scrooge. The poor deserve better. So, how much will you give us?"

"Nothing," said Scrooge. "I'm not merry at Christmas time and I won't give money to the poor. Good afternoon to you!"

The gentlemen were horrified at Scrooge's **lack** of charity and quickly left his dark, cold office. The day continued and turned to night. Fog and darkness filled the streets as the street lamps turned on.

Scrooge called Cratchit and ordered him to come immediately in his office.

"You'll want the whole day off tomorrow, I suppose?" Scrooge asked.

"I-if that is okay, sir," muttered Cratchit.

"It's not okay and it's not fair. It's not fair that I have to pay you when you don't work. But if you must have the whole day off, I want you here extra early the morning after Christmas!"

Cratchit smiled and agreed to come early the next morning. The two men left the office and went their separate ways home. Cratchit was obviously very happy and excited; after all...it was Christmas Eve!

Scrooge walked slowly until he arrived at the **gloomy**, old house where he lived all alone. As he walked up the few steps to the front door he **glanced** at the door knocker.

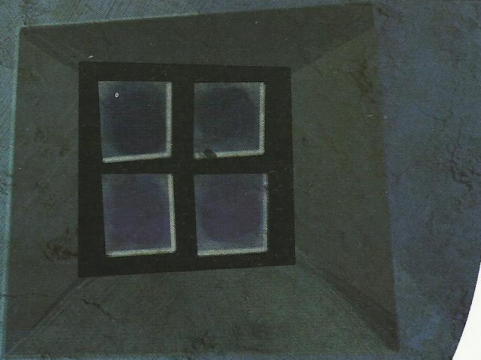
It was quite large and plain looking and never caught Scrooge's attention. But tonight he thought he saw something strange. He thought he saw Marley's ghostly face in the knocker! Scrooge took a timid step closer and looked again, but the image was gone! It was just a normal knocker again. This scared him. He put the key in the door and went inside, locking the door behind him. Once inside, he lit a candle and walked up to his bedroom. The darkness of the big house did not worry Scrooge, darkness was **cheap**, and he liked cheap. Scrooge entered his bedroom and closed the door. He got ready for bed and sat by the fire. Then Scrooge looked around his room and saw an old bell in the corner.

Suddenly, the bell began to ring loudly. In fact, all the bells in Scrooge's house began to ring! Scrooge covered his ears in fear.

After several minutes the bells stopped and the silence returned. Scrooge was scared. He listened to the silence and became calm again. And then he heard it. It was a soft sound at first, but it started to get louder. It sounded like heavy **chains** dragging across the cellar floor. Scrooge sat and listened closely. Then he heard a loud bang! The chains sounded closer now, maybe on the floor below his bedroom.

**Lack:** absence  
**Gloomy:** miserable  
**Glanced:** looked quickly  
**Cheap:** inexpensive  
**Chains:** a connected flexible series of metal links

Scrooge could feel his heart beating in his chest. The sound of the chains was coming closer and closer. He knew that they were just outside his bedroom door. Suddenly the door burst open and in floated Scrooge's business partner, Marley.



But it wasn't normal Marley. No, Marley was now a ghost!

"Who are you and what do you want with me?" demanded Scrooge.

"Don't ask me who I am. Ask me who I was."

"Alright, who *were* you then?"

"In life, I was your business partner, Jacob Marley," said the ghost. "I have come to **warn** you, Ebenezer."

"Humbug, I tell you. HUMBUG!" shouted Scrooge.

"You don't believe in me?" the spirit asked.

"I don't," said Scrooge.

"Why do you not believe what you see?"

"I do not believe you are real because this is just some crazy illusion. Maybe I am just ill!"

Then something really bizarre happened. Scrooge watched as the spirit untied the **bandage** around its head. When it took the bandage off, the spirit's jaw fell onto its chest. This made Scrooge drop to his knees and cry, "Oh Spirit, why do you haunt me?"

"You must believe in me, Ebenezer," said the ghost, "or you will **end up** like me. People who are mean in life must **roam** the afterlife forever."

"Why do you wear those chains?" Scrooge asked.

"I wear the chains I made in life," replied the Spirit. "I made these chains by being mean. Every nasty thing I did in life created another link. And Scrooge, after all the mean things you have done in your life, I am sure that your chain will be very long."

"You were always a good friend and business partner to me, Jacob. What can I do?"

"To save yourself you must change your ways. Three ghosts will visit you tonight. They can save you, but you must learn something from them. The first will arrive at one o'clock."

"That sounds terrible. I don't want to do that. Is there anything else I can do?"

The Spirit got angry for a moment, "Without their visits, you will roam the afterlife forever. You must follow them and learn from them." The Spirit made one last frightful noise and then disappeared. Scrooge ran to his door and locked it. He muttered, "humbug," and went straight to bed.

**Warn:** advise

**Bandage:** a strip of material used to cover a wound

**End up:** finish

**Roam:** walk without any particular direction

## POST-READING ACTIVITIES

## 1 - Into the TEXT

## Questions

Answer the following questions .

Example: Who was Fred?

Fred was Scrooge's nephew.

- 1) Who is Jacob Marley?  
.....
- 2) What is the name of Scrooge's clerk?  
.....
- 3) Who invites Scrooge to come to Christmas dinner?  
.....
- 4) Why doesn't Scrooge give money to charity?  
.....

## True / False

Read the statements then circle true or false.

- 1) All Scrooge cares about are holidays and clothes.
- 2) Cratchit works in a small, dark office.
- 3) The gentlemen appreciate Scrooge's gentleness.
- 4) Cratchit has to work on the twenty-fifth of December.
- 5) Marley's ghost wants to save Scrooge.
- 6) Scrooge's house is very beautiful.
- 7) Scrooge's business partner Marley comes in through the door.
- 8) The spirit unties the bandage and its jaw falls upon its chest.

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

T	F
---	---

## Summary

2 Read the complete

Ebenezer Scrooge is a clerk, Bob Cratchit, who gives money (4) ..... to his annual Christmas and (5) ..... give money and says "I'll warm my cold home, Scrooge replies. Marley tells him about his journey to wander the Earth. He warns Scrooge. Marley in the night. After the ghost d

1 a. old

2 a. love

3 a. on

4 a. on

5 a. war

6 a. retu


7 a. abo

8 a. ban

9 a. will

10 a. go

Summary

**2**  Read the following summary and fill in the blanks with the correct words. Once completed, listen and check your answers.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a mean (1) ..... man who (2) ..... Christmas. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, works (3) ..... a dark and cold office. Scrooge refuses to spend money (4) ..... coal for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, visits his uncle and invites him to his annual Christmas party, but Scrooge doesn't accept. Then, two gentlemen enter in the office and (5) ..... Scrooge for a contribution to their charity. But Scrooge does not want to give money and says "Bah! Humbug!" Later that evening, after (6) ..... to his dark, cold home, Scrooge receives a visit (7) ..... the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley. Marley tells him about his unfortunate story. As punishment for his greedy and selfish life his spirit must wander the Earth. He has heavy (8) ..... on his feet and on his arms. Marley hopes to warn Scrooge. Marley informs Scrooge that three spirits (9) ..... visit him throughout the night. After the ghost disappears, Scrooge closes the door and (10) ..... to his bed.

- |    |              |            |             |
|----|--------------|------------|-------------|
| 1  | a. old       | b. young   | c. dead     |
| 2  | a. loves     | b. hating  | c. hates    |
| 3  | a. on        | b. in      | c. with     |
| 4  | a. on        | b. in      | c. about    |
| 5  | a. want      | b. answer  | c. ask      |
| 6  | a. returning | b. returns | c. returned |
| 7  | a. about     | b. from    | c. with     |
| 8  | a. bandages  | b. feeble  | c. chains   |
| 9  | a. will      | b. have    | c. are      |
| 10 | a. go        | b. goes    | c. walk     |

T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F
T	F

### Vocabulary

Match the words with their opposites by drawing lines.

wealthy  
cheap  
merry  
loudly  
calm  
nasty  
gloomy  
timid

quietly, silently  
colourful, bright  
good, decent  
outgoing, social  
poor, unfortunate  
excited, agitated  
sad, depressed  
expensive, costly

## 2 - Working with LANGUAGE

### The Past Simple

The Past Simple is used for:

Actions which took place at a definite moment in the past.

*Ex. Last Saturday I ate too much at lunch and I felt sick.*

Past habits and routines.

*Ex. During my summer holidays I got up late every morning.*

Actions in the past with no connection with the present.

*Ex. Horatio Nelson won at Trafalgar.*

We form the Past Simple by adding **-ed** to the base form of regular verbs.

*Call → Called, Watch → Watched*

For the negative we use: **subject + did + not + verb.**

*I sleep → I did not sleep*

To make questions we use: **did + subject + verb.**

*I see → Did you see that monster?*

Key words: *yesterday, last night, 2 years ago, 1999.*

Irregular verbs have their own form in the Past Simple. See a dictionary. However, in the negative and interrogative, they function as regular verbs and are left in their base form.

*Ex. I take → I took it. I did not take it. Did you take it?*

Fill in the blank

- 1) Scrooge (to
- 2) "What (you
- 3) "You (not b
- 4) Once insid
- 5) He (get) ...  
small supp

Complete the





Fill in the blanks using the simple past of the verbs given in brackets.

- 1) Scrooge (lock) ..... the shop and (go) .....home.
- 2) "What (you do) .....Marley?" Scrooge asked.
- 3) "You (not believe) ..... in me," the spirit said.
- 4) Once inside he (light)..... a candle and (walk up) .....to his bedroom.
- 5) He (get) ..... ready for bed and (sit) ..... by the fire and (eat) ..... a small supper.

Complete the chart adding the Past Simple and Infinitive of the irregular verbs given.

INFINITIVE	PAST
To be	.....
To come	.....
To go	.....
To take	.....
To fight	.....
To eat	.....
To write	.....
To read	.....
To buy	.....
To become	.....
To sit	.....
To drink	.....
.....	Gave
.....	Told
.....	Said
.....	Fell
.....	Made
.....	Did



### 3 - Beyond the TEXT

In Italy, children wait for the arrival of the Befana. However, this is an Italian tradition that is not well-known in the rest of the world. Write a short letter (100-150 words) to your Canadian friend describing the Befana tradition and how Italians celebrate this holiday.

A piece of white lined paper with a yellow envelope illustration, holly leaves, and candy canes. The paper has horizontal lines for writing and a vertical margin line on the left. The envelope is yellow and is surrounded by green holly leaves and red berries, and two red and white striped candy canes.

## CH

### CHRISTMAS EVE - DE

3 For many E  
time. A popu  
mas carolling. A ca  
or the winter season  
*Night, Jingle Bell*  
*Christmas Tree*. So  
to bring the Christ  
tivities include goin  
night church servic  
Clause comes. Bef  
some mince pies an  
out for Santa's rein  
land and makes all  
and goes around th

