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*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Journal Entries & Discussion Questions

Prior to Reading:

1. What gives you joy at Christmas time?
2. What inspired Charles Dickens to write *A Christmas Carol*?

Stave One, Part 1

1. Write a description of Scrooge using words from the text.
2. What is Scrooge’s relationship with Marley?
3. How are Scrooge and Marley similar?
4. In your journal answer the following: What is your opinion of Scrooge? Consider how he chooses to live his life; how he treats others, such as Bob Cratchit; and his response to his nephew and the Gentleman Visitors’ request.
5. How is the mood outside Scrooge’s office different from the mood within the office?
6. What do you think gives Scrooge joy at Christmas time?

Stave One, Part 2

1. What do you think Marley’s chain represent and why does he wear it?
2. Why does Marley appear to Scrooge?
3. Consider Marley’s words, “Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!” Looking at this quote, what do you think Marley’s spirit is trying to teach Scrooge and what, if anything, has he learned at this point?
4. Compare Scrooge with his late partner, Jacob Marley. How are they alike?

Stave Two

1. Contrast Scrooge with his old master, Fezziwig. How are they different?
2. According to Scrooge, why was Fezziwig a good master?
3. What seems to be happening to Scrooge here?
4. Philanthropy is the “altruistic (unselfish) concern for human welfare and advancement, usually manifested by donations of money, property, or work to needy persons, by endowment of institutions of learning and hospitals, and by generosity to other socially useful purposes.” List at least five characteristics of a person who does philanthropy.
5. The Spirit of Christmas Past reveals memories of Scrooge’s youth. What do you think are the most serious mistakes Scrooge has made? Consider his old master Fezziwig and his sweetheart.

Stave Three

1. Contrast the quality of Scrooge’s life with Bob Cratchit’s life.

Stave Four

1. What is the climax of the story?

Stave Five

1. How does Scrooge show that he has made mankind his business?
2. What does the story suggest is everyone’s business?
3. What is one possible theme found in *A Christmas Carol*?
4. Write a new description of Scrooge. What led to his change?