

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

retold by Jenny Dooley



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Scrooge's Nephew

It was night-time, and the wind blew the snow off the roofs of the houses. But Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Present could not feel the cold. As they were walking, they saw a light. And the very next moment, as if by magic, they were inside Fred's house. It was after dinner, and the candles were glowing. A group of friends was sitting around a long table eating Christmas pudding. Fred was talking.

"And then he said Christmas was humbug! And he actually believes it!"

Fred's wife, a young girl with bright blonde hair, red cheeks and intelligent blue eyes, looked at him.

"That's the sad part, Fred. He feels no goodness in his heart. He has all that money, and he doesn't share it with anyone."

There were another two young women, with the same colour hair as Fred's wife sitting at the table. They were her sisters. They knew Scrooge, and they all felt the same way about him. But Fred felt sorry for his uncle.

"I think he's unhappy because he doesn't know how to share anything with anyone. Every Christmas, I invite him here, and every Christmas he says no. But one year, he may change his mind, so I will keep inviting him."

The friends soon forgot about Scrooge. They played music and sang songs, and then they began to play games. Scrooge watched joyfully as they enjoyed themselves. He even laughed

when they did, but no one could hear him. Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Present spoke.

“It is time for us to leave.”

“Just one more game. They’re about to start a new one.”

Scrooge felt like a child again. The ghost let him watch this last game. It was a game called ‘Yes-No’. Fred walked around acting like some kind of angry animal, and the others asked him questions about who he was. The only answers he could give were ‘yes’ or ‘no’.

“Does it live in London?”

“Yes.”

“Does it live in the zoo?”

“No.”

“Does it walk through the streets?”

“Yes.”

“Is it a hungry dog?”

“No.”

One of the guests became excited.

“I know! I know! It’s your uncle Scrooge!”

They all began laughing, because that was the right answer. Only Scrooge’s nephew stopped laughing long enough to speak once more.

“Well, Uncle Ebenezer, wherever you are, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

The ghost took Scrooge by the arm and took him outside again. Scrooge was thinking about the fun everybody had at Fred’s party. He felt so happy. He didn’t see that the ghost was no longer next to him. The church bells were ringing.

“What time is it? Is it night-time already?”





A Christmas Carol

The miserly Scrooge is content with his life until he receives some unusual visitors one Christmas Eve. Charles Dickens' famous ghost story takes us on a journey through the life of one man in Victorian London.

COMPONENTS:

- ◆ Reader
- ◆ Activity Book
- ◆ Teacher's Book
- ◆ Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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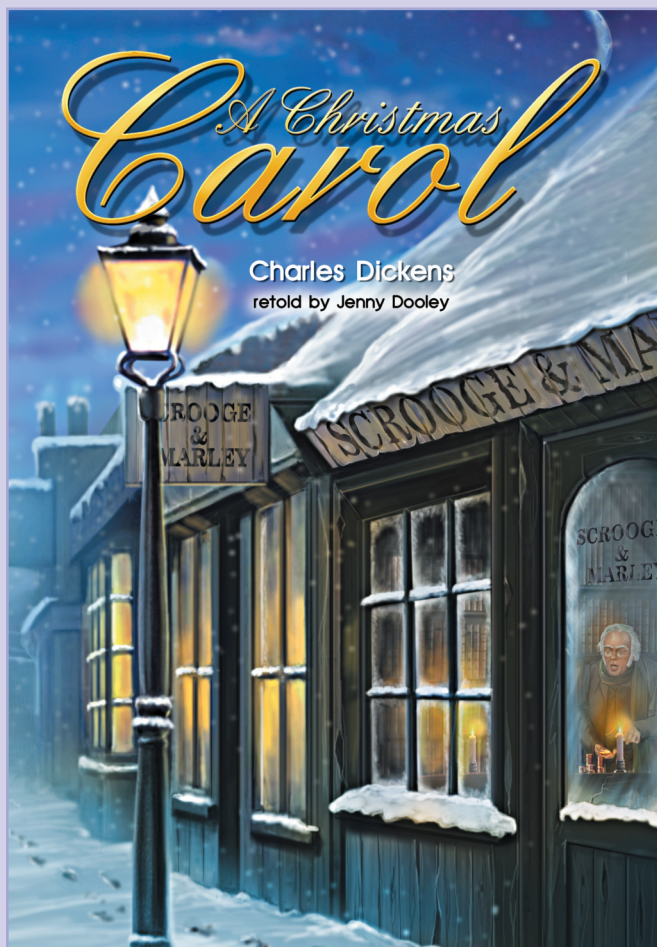


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Activity Book



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Scrooge's First Love

I. Listening



Listen to the recording and underline the correct word.

- 1 The man's eyes were **bright** / **black** and excited by the possibilities of the future.
- 2 The pain in the old Scrooge's **head** / **heart** spread to the rest of his body.
- 3 They walked over a **river** / **bridge**, and suddenly the weather changed.
- 4 At the end of the bridge stood a small **house** / **horse**.
- 5 A fire burned in the fireplace and the children's **excitement** / **laughter** filled the room with joy.
- 6 The children all ran **downstairs** / **upstairs**, screaming and laughing.
- 7 The night was dark and Scrooge was **back** / **alone** in his own bedroom.

II. Comprehension questions

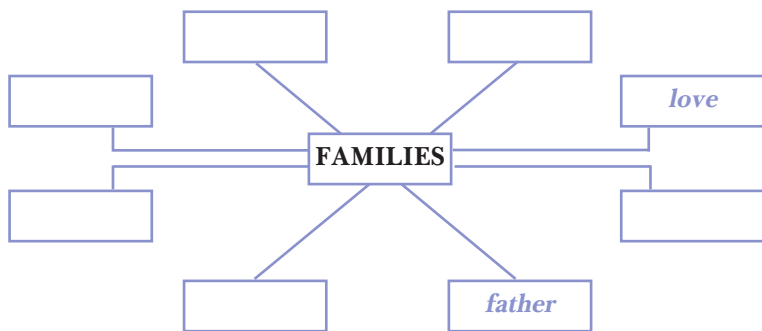
- 1 What was different about the faces of the two young people on the bridge?
- 2 Who were these people?
- 3 Why was the young woman unhappy?
- 4 What wasn't so important for Scrooge when he was young?
- 5 Who lived in the house at the end of the bridge?
- 6 What made Belle's husband feel awful when he was walking past a shop in London?

III. Topics for discussion

- 1 What do you think happened to Belle and Scrooge after their discussion on the bridge?
- 2 Why was Scrooge sad when he saw the children opening their presents?
- 3 Why do you think Scrooge was still working on Christmas day while Marley was dying?
- 4 Do you think love or money is more important? Talk about it with a friend, then tell the class.

IV. Activities

A *Complete the spidergram below with as many words as you can think of on the topic theme, “Families”.*



Chapter 5 _____

B i) *Match the words in the box to the pictures.*

angry proud worried excited frightened



1



2



3



4



5

ii) *Say which of the characters from the story felt this way and why. Then describe a situation when you have had one of these feelings.*



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