

Jacob Marley's Ghost

Jacob Marley's Ghost is presented as a terrifying phantom, wrapped in chains, which he clanks 'hideously in the dead silence of the night'. These chains symbolise his motivations during his life – money and business. His friendship towards Scrooge is shown as he seeks to stop Scrooge facing the same 'Incessant torture of remorse' that he has endured for the past seven years. His message sets up the visitation of three further spirits, which also sets up the structure of the novella.

DO IT!

Write a paragraph to explain how Dickens presents the theme of redemption in Stave One.

REVIEW



IT!

- 1 Why is the opening to Stave One surprising?
- 2 Why does Scrooge keep the door of his counting house open?
- 3 What does the metaphor 'dismal little cell' suggest?
- 4 Scrooge is described with cold images whereas Fred is described with images of heat. What is Dickens showing the reader here?
- 5 What is Scrooge's reaction to Fred's answer that he married for love?
- 6 How does Scrooge feel about the poor?
- 7 What does Scrooge see as his role in helping the welfare of the poor?
- 8 Look at these quotations about the weather. Match the quotation with the relevant language analysis.

'Meanwhile the fog and darkness thickened so'

'as if its teeth were chattering in its frozen head'

'The water-plug being left in solitude, its overflowings suddenly congealed, and turned to misanthropic ice.'

'Piercing, searching, biting cold.'

'The owner of one scant young nose, gnawed and mumbled by the hungry cold as bones are gnawed by dogs, stooped down at Scrooge's keyhole'

Use of successive clauses builds the intensity and effect of cold. **Personification** suggests that cold distrusts humankind.

The list of adjectives reveals the violent and menacing nature of cold.

The use of personification that is extended by a **simile** alarmingly describes the effects of the weather on a face.

Personification of the church conveys the extent and effect of cold.

The time connective and the verb suggest the weather is closing in and getting worse.

- 9 “
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.
”

What **technique** does Dickens use to describe his house? What is he suggesting in his use of this technique?

- 10 How does Scrooge react initially to the signs of the haunting by Marley's Ghost?
- 11 Marley's eyes are described as 'glazed'. What does this adjective suggest about them?
- 12 What are Marley's chains made of? What do they symbolise?
- 13 Marley's spirit is condemned to 'wander through the world'. What is he forced to witness during these wanderings?
- 14 Scrooge tells Marley, "You were always a good friend to me!" How does Marley show his friendship towards Scrooge in this section?
- 15 As Scrooge goes to the window, what does he see outside? What is Dickens' message to the reader here?
- 16 At the end of Stave One, Scrooge does not finish the word "Humbug!" What is Dickens suggesting here?