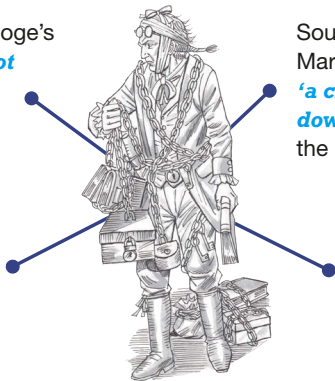


- Marley, Scrooge's one-time business partner is dead. Scrooge has **'never painted out Old Marley's name'** from above the warehouse door and answers to both names.
- Scrooge is **'tight-fisted'**, **'hard'** and **'solitary'** to the extent that **'nobody ever stopped him in the street'** to ask about his health.
- Scrooge's nephew, Fred, invites Scrooge to dine with his family on Christmas Day, but Scrooge refuses.
- Two **'portly gentlemen'** arrive and ask Scrooge to make a donation for the benefit of the poor. He refuses this too, saying it is better that the impoverished die **'and decrease the surplus population'**.
- Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, works in a **'dismal little cell'** with a tiny fire that he is not allowed to replenish. Scrooge complains that Cratchit will want Christmas Day off.
- When Scrooge goes home, he is visited by Marley's Ghost, who warns that Scrooge will be haunted **'by Three Spirits'**.

Think! What role does Marley's Ghost play in the story?

He first appears as Scrooge's door knocker: ***'It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look.'***

Ghost has ***'death-cold eyes'***, which links to depictions of Scrooge as cold and icy.



Sound of his chains precedes Marley's appearance: ***'a clanking noise, deep down below'***. Suggests that the sound comes from hell.

Ghost's body is ***'transparent'***. Compare to descriptions of the three spirits who haunt Scrooge.



How does Dickens use Marley's chain as a metaphor?



Answers

- Marley's chain is a metaphor for Marley's greed and obsession with money.
- Marley is wrapped in chains that weigh him down and clank **'hideously'**.
- The items on the chain represent Marley's motivations in life – i.e. money and security: **'...it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel.'**



Marley's Ghost appears to Scrooge to warn him about the fate that potentially awaits him after death. His chains create an **'incessant torture of remorse'** that he has endured for the past seven years in purgatory.

Think! How does Dickens present the theme of redemption in Stave One?

At the end of Stave One, Scrooge looks out of his window and sees phantoms weighed down by chains like Marley's.

- The ghosts are '*wandering hither and thither in restless haste*' – they have no direction.
- They are '*moaning*' – suggesting they are in pain.
- '*Every one of them wore chains like Marley's Ghost*' – he has already described the chains as '*penance*'.
- '*none were free*' – the ghosts are all physically and spiritually bound.



What is the reason for the misery these ghosts suffer?

1. Who was Scrooge's business partner?
2. What is the name of Scrooge's clerk?
3. Who invites Scrooge to Christmas dinner?
4. Who is Belle?



What does Jacob Marley represent?