***A Christmas Carol***

**Stave 1: Marley’s Ghost**

1. What is the simile in the second paragraph?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Why is Marley’s being dead so important to this story?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. How does the following description of Scrooge characterize him?

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind- stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. In the above description of Scrooge, Dickens uses many similes and metaphors. Highlight the similes and circle the metaphors.
2. In the three paragraphs following the quoted paragraph, what else do we learn about Scrooge?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. The view of Christmas that Scrooge’s nephew has is also Dickens’ view of the holiday. What is that view, as seen in this quotation?

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew. "Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round -- apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that -- as a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Scrooge is a rich man and his nephew is not. Discuss their attitudes concerning Christmas. How can one be so joyful and the other so dismal?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. When the two gentlemen visitors to the office say, “We have no doubt that his [Marley’s] liberality is well represented by his surviving partner,” why is their assumption correct but their view entirely wrong?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. How does Scrooge saying, “If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population” further characterize him?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Scrooge tells us his business comes first, last, and always to him. Is he a miser? Explain.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Again, the author describes how bitterly cold the day is. Why is Dickens continuously reminding us of this?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. How does Scrooge respond to the experience of seeing Marley’s face on Christmas Eve?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. In answer to Scrooge’s question as to why spirits walk the earth, what is Marley’s response?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. What is significant about Marley’s chain?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. To what is Marley referring when he says, “Not to know that no space of regret can make amends for one life’s opportunities misused!”?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Scrooge comments on how Marley had always been a good businessman. What does Marley say was actually his true business?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. Why does Marley say he suffers most this particular time of year?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. What is Marley’s warning to Scrooge?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. When Marley’s ghost goes out the window, Scrooge sees many chained, anguished specters floating about. What is the reader told is the “Misery with them all”?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. What point is Dickens making with the above comment?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. What is the major theme of this stave?

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |