***A Christmas Carol***

**Stave II: The First of the Three Spirits**

1. It is Christmas Eve when Scrooge gets home. It is 2:00 a.m. when he goes to be. Why is he confused when he wakes up?

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1. When Scrooge comes face to face with the Ghost of Christmas Past, the narrator states he is, “…as close to it as I am now to you, and I am standing in the spirit at your elbow.” What is Dickens implying?

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1. When Scrooge asks the Ghost of Christmas Past to put on his cap, the ghost responds by asking Scrooge if he would have him so soon put out the light it gives. Of what is the ghost accusing Scrooge?

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1. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge to a schoolhouse where there is a lonely, neglected boy reading by a fire. What is the point of this and the other schoolhouse scenes?

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1. What do the schoolhouse scenes make Scrooge wish he had done differently the night before at his office?

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1. The Ghost of Christmas Past says the reason for his visit is to reclaim Scrooge’s soul. Based on what has happened thus far, how do you suppose the ghost place to do this?

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1. The young Scrooge and his sister talk. For what reason does this scene seem to be included?

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1. The second scene that is shown to Scrooge is at a warehouse where he serves as a young apprentice to Mr. Fezziwig. Compare the events that take place in this scene to the one at Scrooge’s counting-house in Stave I.

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1. The ghost tells Scrooge that it is a “small matter” that Fezziwig makes the folks full of gratitude. What is Scrooge’s response to this statement?

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1. What effect does this scene have on Scrooge?

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1. In the next scene, we see Scrooge speaking with a fair young girl in tears. What does she say has displaced her and become Scrooge’s passion?

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1. How does this scene end?

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1. In the last scene of this chapter, what is Scrooge’s reaction to the family scene he witnesses?

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1. What is the major theme of this stave?

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