***A Christmas Carol***

**Stave III: The Second of the Three Spirits**

1. The Ghost of Christmas Present takes a particular interest in the people as they walk the streets and carry their dinners to the baker’s shop. What effect does his torch have on the people when he sheds a few drops of water on them from it?

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1. The Ghost tells Scrooge that his torch sprinkles a peculiar flavor on the dinners of the people, and it benefits the poor most because they need it most. What does this mean? How may it have affected the poor?

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1. Some people take their turkeys or geese to the bakery shop to get them cooked. Scrooge accuses the spirit of wanting to force the bakery shops to close on Sundays and, therefore, keep the poor from having a cooked supper. What is the Spirit’s response?

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1. Explain what Tiny Tim means when he says “that he hoped the people saw him in church because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see.”

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1. What will be Tiny Tim’s fate if the shadows remain unaltered?

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1. How does the Ghost use Scrooge’s own words against him when Scrooge responds with anguish to the spirit’s comment about Tiny Tim?

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1. What does the Ghost mean when he says, “If man you be in heart, not adamant, forebear that wicked cant until you have discovered *What surplus is and Where it is.* Will you decide what man shall live, what man shall die?”

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1. Describe the effect it has on the family when Bob Cratchit toasts Mr. Scrooge as the Founder of the Feast.

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1. What point is the ghost, and Dickens, making with the Cratchit family, as well as the trips to the desolate moor and the ship at sea?

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1. After the ghost takes Scrooge to the home of his nephew, Scrooge again becomes the topic of conversation. What does Fred mean when he says, “his offenses carry their own punishment”?

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1. When the dinner is over at the house of Scrooge’s nephew, they begin to play music which has the effect of softening Scrooge’s demeanor. What does Scrooge think might have happened had he listened to the music more often years earlier?

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1. Scrooge sees two hideous children, a boy and a girl, emerge from beneath the Spirit’s robe. Explain who they are and to whom they belong.

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1. Why does the Spirit warned Scrooge to beware of these children?

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1. What is the major theme of this stave?

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