

A Christmas Carol Home Learning Booklet

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Essay Writing Guidance

Home Learning two and four require you to write a full essay. You will have covered this in lesson. There is a useful reminder below should you need it.

Remember to track how the character or theme changes / develops throughout the play.

If you had a question on how Dickens presents Ebeneezer Scrooge your first paragraph would explore how he is presented at the start of the novella, your second paragraph will explore how he has changed or developed in the middle of the novella and your third paragraph will explore how he is presented at the end of the novella.

Just ask yourself… in **what** way is the character or theme presented? **How** do we know this? **Why** has Dickens done this?

**WHAT:** In what way is the character or theme presented?

**HOW:** how do we know this? What quotation could you use to back this up? Who says the quotation? To whom? Why?

What method is Dickens using in the quotation? Why? What is the effect?

How might a reader of 1843 react? Why?

**WHY:** why might Dickens have presented the character in this way? What might he be trying to say about society in 1843?

Home Learning One

Below are your 10 key words for A Christmas Carol. You are expected to understand each word and to use them in your writing.

Task

Using the table below, you need to define what each word means. Try and put this into your own words to help you remember. You also need to find at least one memorable synonym for each word.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Definition | Synonym |
| 1. Abundance |  |  |
| 1. Impoverished |  |  |
| 1. Misanthropic |  |  |
| 1. Avaricious |  |  |
| 1. Allegory |  |  |
| 1. Redemption |  |  |
| 1. Ignorance |  |  |
| 1. Vulnerable |  |  |
| 1. Melancholy |  |  |
| 1. Destitute |  |  |

Home Learning Two

How does Dickens present Ebeneezer Scrooge in Stave One?

You will need to write about:

* How Dickens presents Scrooge at three different points in Stave One
* You will need to use quotations from the text.

My Plan:

Paragraph One: How is Scrooge presented at the start of Stave One? Which quotation can you use to prove this?

Paragraph Two: How is Scrooge presented part way through Stave One? Which quotation can you use to prove this?

Paragraph Three: How is Scrooge presented towards the end of Stave One? Which quotation can you use to prove this?

Essay One

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Home Learning Three

**Read the following contextual information and complete the questions below:**

**Dickens’ Life**

1. Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812 in Hampshire into a middle class family.

2. His dad was imprisoned for debt leading to poverty for the family.

3. Charles was put to work at Warren’s Blacking Factory.

4. Dickens found employment as an office boy at an attorneys.

5. A Christmas Carol was written in 1843

**Industrial Revolution**

1. From 1780 factory owners in Britain began to use coal-fired steam engines to power the machines in big factories, bringing great fortune.

2. Transition from traditional farming methods to machinery led to Industrial revolution.

3. People flocked from the countryside to the cities. London’s population between 1800 and 1900 from 1 million to 6 million people. This led to over-crowding and hunger, disease and crime. There were no proper drainage / sewage systems. Many families had to share one tap / toilet. Children suffered the most and were exploited by factory owners who forced them to work long hours in dangerous conditions.

**Charity**

1. Industrial revolution led to a gap between the rich and poor with many struggling to survive relying on the generosity of those better off than themselves.

2. Some philanthropists were keen to enhance the lives of the workers. Cadburys tried to provide quality homes and improve lifestyles of workers at their factory in Bournville.

**Malthus and the Poor Law**

In 1798, the economist Thomas Malthus wrote that the human population would always grow faster than food supplies. He thought that poverty was the inevitable result of overpopulation because the worst off in society would get less and less. Malthus argued that people should not have too many children. Dickens disagreed with Malthus and thought it was wrong that the poor should suffer because the rich were too selfish to share their wealth.

**Education**

1. Dickens believed strongly in the importance of education.

2. As part of his campaign against the treatment of the poor, Dickens worked with a friend called Angela Burdett-Coutts.

3. In 1840s, Dickens and Coutts became involved in the Ragged Schools. The aim was to provide poor children with basic education.

4. Dickens believed that it is through education that one can leave poverty.

**Religion**

1. Christianity held a strong influence in Victorian Britain, especially amongst the middle / upper classes.

2. Good Christians believed in a strict moral code – attending church regularly, avoiding alcohol and exercise sexual restraint.

3. Dickens’ view on Christianity was different. He believed that to be a good Christian people should seek out opportunities to do good deeds for other people.

4. Sabbatarianism – when people spent Sunday going to church and resting. Dickens was opposed to this because it meant that working poorer people were denied any enjoyment on their one day off – everything was shut.

5. Poorer people didn’t have ovens at home so often food cooked by bakers. Sabbatarianism meant that many people couldn’t get a hot meal on Sundays because the bakers were shut.

1. What did Dickens believe was the main answer to poverty?
2. What was Dickens’ view of Christianity?
3. Write down two ways that Dickens’ childhood experiences influenced the story or characters of A Christmas Carol.
4. Where in the novella do we see the terrible conditions (‘hunger, disease and crime’) created by the Industrial revolution?
5. Where in the novella is Scrooge seen to agree with/ mirror Malthus’ ideas about the poor?
6. How did Dickens want the readers to respond to the Cratchit family?
7. As well as the Cratchits, write about two other examples of people suffering in the novella:
8. What issues in today’s society do you think that Dickens would be tweeting about? )What issues would he have an issue with?)
9. What was Dickens trying to convey through the character of Fezziwig?
10. Why do you think Dickens set his story at Christmas time?

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A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generatedHome Learning Four

My plan

Introduction:

Paragraph One (How is Scrooge presented as an outsider to society at the start of the novella?) :

Paragraph Two (How is Scrooge presented as an outsider to society in the middle of the novella?)

Paragraph Three (How is Scrooge presented as an outsider to society at the end of the novella? Is he still or has this now changed?)

Conclusion: (What did Priestley want to show through presenting Mrs Birling in this way?)

Quotations I will use:

Essay Two

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Home Learning Five

**Year 10 GCSE Literature Homework: Dickens’ ‘Big Ideas’ in ‘A Christmas Carol’**

Here are a list of the themes and ideas Dickens explores in ‘A Christmas Carol’. Annotate around each icon how and where these ideas have appeared in the novel so far. You could discuss characters and events. Try and think of more than one example for each idea.

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**Social injustice**

**Redemption**

**Moral Responsibility**

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**Christmas**

**Regret**

**Family**

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**vs**

**Greed vs Generosity**

**Threat of Time**

**Inequality**

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**Repentance**

**Isolation**

**Poverty**

Home Learning Six

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Definition |
| 1. Abundance |  |
| 2.Impoverished |  |
| 1. Misanthropic |  |
| 1. Avaricious |  |
| 1. Allegory |  |
| 1. Redemption |  |
| 1. Ignorance |  |
| 1. Vulnerable |  |
| 1. Melancholy |  |
| 1. Destitute |  |

Now, using your knowledge of the novella, write out at least one sentence using each of the terms. Think about which character the term links to.

Extension: can you add in a comment on authorial intent? Why might Dickens have decided to portray the character in this way?

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