

**A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL**

**MADE SUPER
SUPER EASY**

EVELYN SAMUEL

A Christmas Carol
Made Super Super Easy
First Edition Published by Evelyn Samuel
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DEDICATED TO

My late sister Mavis, you will always be treasured and never forgotten

REVIEWS

★★★★★ **The only book you need for A Christmas Carol**

Reviewed 1 June 2021

My son, who is in year 11, has used this book and no other in order to further his knowledge of A Christmas Carol. This guide puts other, more popular study guides to shame, as not only does it have detailed scene summaries and quotation analysis, but also a wide range of possible questions from numerous exam boards and even model answers. An absolute gem of a book!

★★★★★ **Amazing**

Reviewed 20 February 2022

This book is amazing and has helped me and provided me with all the knowledge that I need about a Christmas Carol. It has helped me understand the book and has made it easier

★★★★★ **Very easy to understand**

Reviewed 3 June 2021

The book is amazing my soon found it very easy, thank you so much for the support.

★★★★★ **Such a good buy – very helpful book**

Reviewed 18 February 2021

The book is so helpful as basically all in one. Probably the only book you need to learn Christmas Carol. It gives context, expands on each character whilst also highlighting the txt and expanding it on the right-hand side. It's a very easy book to understand.

★★★★★ **Fantastic resource!**

Reviewed 25 August 2021

Easy to follow guide. The kids absolutely love it! Definitely recommending this to my friends and family.

★★★★★ **A Christmas Carol Made Super Super Easy by Evelyn Samuel**

Reviewed 30 May 2021

I absolutely loved the revision guide and it really helped me with my work during this very difficult time. I would highly recommend buying this book for other GCSE students.

★★★★★ **English**

Reviewed 19 October 2021

Great revision guide.

PREFACE

To all students reading my study guide *A Christmas Carol Made Super Super Easy*. I do hope that my wealth of information will assist you to achieve the highest possible grades. I have formulated a unique structure where detailed explanations are next to the text to make it super super easy for you to connect and understand the book, and to revise without the need to resort to more than one book.

Each Stave is defined by a Summary followed by in-depth explanations which is highlighted with relevant important quotes. It identifies connotated meaning, imagery, symbolism, and linguistic devices. The context identifies the rationale behind the book, so that although Dickens wrote the book as a fantasy Ghost story, the novel essentially revolves around and relates to social issues in the Victorian age, exactly as Dickens intended.

A set of short questions are added to **Stave 1** through to **Stave 5**, the answers to which can be easily found in my text. A detailed explanation of each main character in the book is provided so that the fabric of their relationships can be better understood. The social themes authenticate the human interactions portrayed in the book - the gulf between rich and poor. Typical exam questions are included to give some idea of the scope sought by the Exam Boards. Further details can be found in the Specification published by the Exam Boards on their websites.

Finally, sample essays are provided to give you some idea of the standard expected by the Exam Boards.

Good Luck with your studies and your exam results.

FOREWARD

What a super super easy way to study and understand Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. No need to match text with explanation when both are next to each other.

I really enjoyed looking left at the text and right at the explanation. The structure and content of this fantastic book is a solid base to get to grip with this wonderful, emotional, fantasy where Jacob Marley the deceased partner of Ebenezer Scrooge, seeks to save him from the heavy chains of iniquity by sending three Spirits, each Spirit taking Scrooge on a journey of truth.

I can definitely recommend this study guide to all students, and hope they gain as much insight, as I did, into Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

Teacher of English

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AUTHOR

Charles Dickens published 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843, and although one of many books written by him on the theme of Victorian life, is perhaps his most popular piece of fiction, much loved by readers for its warmth and hope that deep inside every person is a generosity without bounds that can defeat the evils of greed, avarice, and selfishness.

His main aim was to expose the exploitation of the underprivileged class prevalent in Victorian society.

NOVELLA

A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a wealthy old miser who is set in his way with no love for anything except for the making of money. He is confronted by the Ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley who out of concern for his mortal soul, has arranged for three Spirits in turn to visit Scrooge.

The First Spirit takes Scrooge on a journey through his past life. The Second through his present life. Finally, the Third into the future, where Scrooge's old ways lead to unhappiness. Whereas carol singers, charity collectors, relatives, are shunned by Scrooge, and Bob Cratchit underpaid and overworked, redemption turns Scrooge into a new person set in new ways to help those less fortunate than himself. Scrooge becomes a second father to Tiny Tim, the crippled son of Bob Cratchit.

CONTEXT

Right at the outset we have to understand what prompted Charles Dickens to write the novel 'A Christmas Carol'. His ideas for writing this novel stemmed from harrowing accounts that arose from his childhood.

He was born in an affluent middle-class family in 1812. Unfortunately, his father was heavily in debt and had to go to a debtor's prison. Sadly, he was forced to leave school at the age of 12 to work in a factory. He witnessed firsthand the struggles and the miseries experienced by the poor whilst working in the factory and he highlighted the terrible plight of the poor socialist class in Victorian Britain. He wanted to fire up people's consciousness and hoped that through his writings the Capitalist class will become more socially aware of the underlying problems of the poor and assume social responsibility for them.

He became an ardent supporter and campaigned fervently for social reforms especially child labour. He was bitterly opposed to the Capitalist classes shoddy treatment of the poverty-stricken Socialist under-class and he voiced this by writing in a bitter tone. This prompted him to expose the avaricious nature of the Victorian Capitalist class. The characters in 'A Christmas Carol' reflects the relationship between poverty and crime. Many innocent people had to resort to criminal behaviour out of desperation.

To create social awareness, Dickens had carefully and meticulously crafted his characters. Each character is reflective of the social situation in Victorian Times. For example, Scrooge is portrayed as a caricature of a typical Capitalist class avaricious business owner who exploit the poor. On the other hand, the Cratchits perfectly represent the poor poverty-stricken Socialist class.

CHARACTERS

EBENEZER SCROOGE businessman
JACOB MARLEY deceased business partner of Scrooge

[Spirits]

FIRST SPIRIT ghost of Christmas Past
SECOND SPIRIT ghost of Christmas Present
IGNORANCE boy representing Doom
WANT girl representing Poverty
LAST SPIRIT ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

[Cratchit Family]

BOB CRATCHIT clerk to Scrooge
TINY TIM crippled son of Bob Cratchit
MARTHA second eldest daughter of Bob Cratchit
PETER son of Bob Cratchit
BELINDA eldest daughter of Bob Cratchit

[Scrooge Family]

FAN sister of Scrooge
FRED nephew to Scrooge
FRED'S WIFE niece to Scrooge

[Others]

TOPPER friend of Fred
ALI BABA woodsman
ROBIN CURSOE green and yellow tail parrot
FEZZIWIG employer of Scrooge
DICK WILKINS apprentice friend
BELLE fiancée of Scrooge
OLD JOE Beetling Shop Owner
CHARWOMAN house cleaner
LAUNDRESS Mrs Dilber, linen washer and ironer
UNDERTAKER scavenger of personal belongings of the dead
CAROLINE in debt to Scrooge

ENTRANCES

STAVE 1	STAVE 2	STAVE 3	STAVE 4	STAVE 5
OFFICE	LODGINGS	LODGINGS	EXCHANGE	LODGINGS
Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge
Cratchit	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	Boy
Nephew Fred			Businessmen	Poulterer
Charity Workers				
Carol Singers				
LODGINGS	SCHOOL	MARKET	STREET	STREET
Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Charity Worker
Ghost Marley	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	Church goes
	Boy Scrooge	Shopkeepers	Two Persons	Passers by
	Sister Fan	Shoppers		
	School Master			
	WAREHOUSE	CRATCHIT's	BEETLING	FRED's HOUSE
	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge
	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	Nephew Fred
	Fezziwig	Mrs Cratchit	Old Joe	Scrooge's Niece
	Young Scrooge	Belinda	Charwoman	Topper
	Dick Wilkins	Master Peter	Laundress	Invited Guests
	Invited Guests	Martha	Undertaker man	
		Bob Cratchit		
		Tiny Tim		
	PARK BENCH	MOOR	DARK ROOM	OFFICE
	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge
	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	Bob Cratchit
	Young Scrooge	Miners	Dead Man	
	Fiancee Belle			
	BELLE's	LIGHTHOUSE	CAROLINE's	
	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	
	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	
	Belle & Child	Lighthouse Men	Caroline	
	Husband		Husband	
	LODGINGS	SHIP	CRATCHIT's	
	Scrooge	Scrooge	Scrooge	
	First Spirit	Second Spirit	Last Spirit	
		Ship's Crew	Cratchit Family	
			Bob Cratchit	
			Tiny Tim	
		FRED's HOUSE	OFFICE	
		Scrooge	Scrooge	
		Second Spirit	Dead Man	
		Nephew Fred		
		Scrooge's Niece		
		Niece's Sisters		
		Topper		
		Invited Guests		
		OPEN SPACE	CHURCHYARD	
		Scrooge	Scrooge	
		Second Spirit	Last Spirit	
		Boy Ignorance		
		Girl Want		
		Last Spirit		

TIMELINE

Events take place over **TWO** days: - **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day**.

On Christmas Eve, Marley's Ghost tells Scrooge of three visits by different Spirits on three consecutive nights. The first Spirit at 1AM, the second Spirit at 1AM the next night, and the last Spirit at 12AM on the final night. However, Scrooge wakes on Christmas Day – the Spirits have done it all in one night! Scrooge still has Christmas Day to redeem himself and save Tiny Tim.

STAVE 1	Office	Scrooge berates his Clerk Bob Cratchit, Nephew Fred, Charity collectors, Carol Singers for celebrating Christmas
	Lodgings	Marley's Ghost informs Scrooge of visitations by Spirits
STAVE 2	Lodgings	First Spirit visits Scrooge to take him into his past
	School	Scrooge observes his unhappy childhood whereas a boy he is consoled by his sister Fan
STAVE 3	Warehouse	Scrooge observes his apprenticeship at Fezziwig
	Park Bench	Fiancée Belle rejects young Scrooge as a suitor because of his love for nothing but money
	Belle's	Scrooge sees how happy Belle is with her children
	Lodgings	Scrooge traps the Spirit under an extinguisher-cap
	Lodgings	Second Spirit visits Scrooge to take him on a journey to see how others celebrated Christmas in the present
	Market	Scrooge sees the joy felt by ordinary people at Christmas
	Cratchit's	Bob arrives home with Tiny Tim on his shoulder, to enjoy Mrs Cratchit's wonderful Christmas dinner
STAVE 4	Moor	Scrooge observes Miners celebrating Christmas
	Lighthouse	Scrooge observes Light-Keepers celebrating Christmas
	Ship	Scrooge observes ship's crew celebrating Christmas
	Fred's House	Nephew Fred tries to defend Scrooge
	Open Space	Ageing Spirit reveals Boy Ignorance and Girl Want, and then encounters the Last Spirit
	Merchants	Businessmen discuss Scrooge's demise
	Street	Two by-standers on the street discuss Scrooge's demise
	Beetling	Shopkeeper Old Joe trades with Charwomen, Laundress and Undertaker to buy dead man's possessions
	Dark Room	Scrooge views dead man who he believes might be him
	Caroline's	Scrooge views Caroline family and their joy on hearing of the death of Scrooge
STAVE 5	Cratchit's	Bob sits by deceased Tiny Tim and cannot be consoled
	Office	Scrooge observes a different person sitting in his office
	Churchyard	Scrooge is shown his grave. Distraught Scrooge pledges to honour Christmas. Spirit melts into bedpost.
	Lodgings	Scrooge calls street boy to get Poulterer to bring Turkey and then take it to the Cratchits
	Street	Scrooge greets pedestrians, guarantees money to Charity
	Fred's House	Nephew Fred welcomes Scrooge to his Christmas dinner
	Office	Scrooge berates Bob for lateness, then reveals his plan to help the Cratchit family and in particular Tiny Tim

SYNOPSIS

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A Christmas Carol is a short, entertaining story written for both young and old, delivering a heartfelt message about the joy of self-redemption when guided by others. In this case, a ghost Jacob Marley heralding the arrival of Three Spirits, each Spirit taking Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of truth to change his miserly and uncaring ways.

Stave One of the Book introduces the reader to Ebenezer Scrooge whose sole focus is to make money by whatever means. His long-suffering clerk, Bob Cratchit works long hours in cold conditions because Scrooge won't pay for coal. In the afternoon on Christmas Eve, Scrooge's nephew Fred arrives to invite him to Christmas dinner but is treated very badly by Scrooge. Next the two charity collectors, and then a carol singer, are both refused money. Later, having left the office, and arriving at his lodgings, strange events happen. The front door knocker changed into the face of Jacob Marley, his now deceased and former business partner, and later in his bedroom, a clanging noise heralded the arrival of the ghostly form of Marley bound in heavy chains, there to warn Scrooge of the visitations by Three Spirits sent to teach him a lesson of love and charity.

Stave Two, at twelve midnight, the Ghost of Christmas Past appears, sent to take Scrooge on a journey through his unhappy childhood. Scrooge as a boy is seen alone in a schoolroom, and later during another Christmas, with his sister Fan. The journey continues with Scrooge now a young man, at a Christmas party of his first employer Fezziwig where Scrooge enjoys partaking in the merriment. But later, on a park bench, he is rejected by his fiancée Belle for his love of money followed by the heartache of seeing her later in life happily married with children.

Stave Three, at one in the morning on Christmas Day, the Ghost of Christmas Present appears. Both visit a busy street as preparations are made for Christmas celebrations, where humour and happiness abound. Then they visit the Cratchit family as they prepare lunch, where Scrooge learns that crippled Tiny Tim the son of Bob Cratchit will not survive unless the future is changed. As darkness is falling, they watch a series of visions showing how miners and sailors spend Christmas. Next, they arrive at Fred's house where a party is about to begin and learn that he is pitied. At a quarter to Midnight on Christmas Eve, the Ghost began to age, and from beneath his robes emerged a boy called Ignorance and a girl called Want. The Ghost warns Scrooge to beware of Ignorance, and then vanishes.

Stave Four, the clock strikes twelve midnight, it's Christmas Day, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come glides ominously towards Scrooge to take him into the future to witness conversations among businessmen about a man who has just died. No one cares, and no respect is paid, as Scrooge is witness to the selling of the dead man's bed-curtains, shirt, and possessions at a shop.

They journey to the dead man's room, where Scrooge refuses to look at the dead man face, fearing that it is he. Scrooge witnesses a couple who are relieved that they will not have to repay their debt owed to the dead man. They continue their journey to the Cratchit's house to learn of the untimely, but not unexpected death of Tiny Tim. Bob and the family are grief-stricken. Scrooge is now in a somber mood. Finally, the Ghost and Scrooge stand in front of a neglected tombstone overgrown with weeds, on which is engraved the name EBENEZER SCROOGE. Shocked, Scrooge vows to change his ways. The Ghost then disappears.

Stave Five, Scrooge wakes to discover that all the visitations have taken place over one night. He opens his bedroom window, asks a boy to buy the biggest Turkey and pays for a cab to take the boy and the Turkey to Bob Cratchit's house. He then greets people on the street; gives a generous donation to the charity collector whom he had refused earlier; goes to church; and arrives at Fred's house wary to enter, but is greeted with such love and affection. The next day, Scrooge surprises Bob, raises his wage, and promises to help his family and, most importantly, Tiny Tim who does not die early, and who has a second father in Scrooge. Scrooge is redeemed, is not a lover solely of money, and is known as a man who keeps Christmas. Dickens end the A Christmas Carol with Tiny Tim's prayer "God bless Us, Every One"

SETTING

Dickens book 'A Christmas Carol' is set in the Victorian age when the British Empire was beginning to emerge, and the population growth in cities such as London fueled its development. Unfortunately, no provision was made for social issues, so many people found themselves competing for lack of resources, resulting in squalor and poverty for those without means. Even Dickens's father found himself in a debtor's prison. Dickens used London to expose the type of environment where squalor and poverty were prevalent as it contained a high proportion of the population at the time; this was where jobs were more likely available.

The London locations used in the story are:

SCROOGE's Office	SCROOGE's House	SCROOGE's Grave
FRED's House	CRATCHIT's House	JOE's Shop
CAROLINE's House	The STREET	The CHURCH
The DARK ROOM	The MARKET	The EXCHANGE

The other locations used in the story are:

SCROOGE's School	BELLE's House	FEZZIWIG's Warehouse
The MOOR	The LIGHTHOUSE	The SHIP

FORM

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A Christmas Carol is a work of narrative prose fiction, longer than a short story but shorter than a novel, typically of no more than 120 pages or 40,000 words. Dickens refers to each section as a Stave not a Chapter to imply that the book has a musical form built in, to be read aloud as a rhythm, much as carols are sung aloud.

STRUCTURE

A Christmas Carol is a typical novella where unlike a novel with several reversal of character in the development of the storyline, this has one reversal: the redemption of Scrooge. Marley is the character who sets the story in motion. Each Ghost develops the action or creates a rising action. Eventually, this leads to the climax when Scrooge is confronted by the gravestone, an epiphany, the moment that Scrooge see the world in a new way, the moment when he knows that he needs to change and to reform if he is to get any happiness from his life. Only by helping others will this happen. Stave Five, is the path of falling action, where Scrooge has changed, and ensues that Tiny Tim will not die prematurely.

LANGUAGE

Dickens creates a lively narrative filled with linguistic techniques, and based his characters on his observations of real people and the places they inhabited and worked in.

The narrative language device is used with great effect by Dickens to inform the reader and bring the characters and the places to live. This gives an insight into Scrooge's thoughts and feelings throughout the story and creates realism.

The character language device is used to great effect to define who each person is and their associated occupation. For example, the name Cratchit identifies with someone who scratches out a living and survives only through mutual support, acting as a crutch for others.

The imagery language device is used create rich descriptive scenes. Dickens make use of this device through the story, stimulating the readers imagination. For example,

'Upon it's coming in, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried, 'I know him! Marley's Ghost! and fell again.'

The simile language device is used to compare different things so as to gain a greater understanding of one of them. Dickens uses it to great effect. For example, when describing solitude, the simile is 'solitary as an oyster', implying no friends in Scrooge's case.

The personification language device is used to give human attributes or feelings to an inanimate object. An example, would be 'not a knocker, but Marley's face'.

The knocker is now endowed with human form.

The pathetic fallacy language device is used to give objects and events human emotions and traits. Dickens makes good use of this device to introduce human emotions into potatoes who

'knocked loudly at the saucepan-lid to be let out and pealed'.

The weather is another use by Dickens of pathetic fallacy:

'cold, piping for the blood to dance to'.

The sentence style language device is used to keep the flow going when there are many clauses and phrases connected together in a sentence: use of the 'and' rather than 'comma'. Short sentences are used to create a sense of emotion.

The adjective language device is often used by Dickens to create humour by modifying nouns in such a way as to make the noun seem ridiculous. For example,

'Oh! But he was tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!'

We can assume that Dickens spits out these many adjectives to show his bitterness and anger towards the capitalist class. Hence writing in a very bitter tone. The extended image of the sinner made more effective by the adjectives revealing Scrooge's terrible character.

TEXT AND EXPLANATION

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The Dickensian text is written in the left column, and the explanation and interpretation, in the right column.

Important quotes and phrases in the text are highlighted and reproduced in the explanation column for discussion, on the same page. Consequently, there is no need to turn pages!

A summary of each Stave precedes the text and explanation to give an overall perspective of the events in the story.