

Sample Pages from
Objective Tests
with
Writing and Thinking Prompts
and Answer Keys

for
A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens



A Teaching Pack

by Margaret Whisnant

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A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Stave One Marley's Ghost



Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. There was no doubt that Marley was (A) the best friend Scrooge ever had, (B) the only person willing to be Scrooge's business partner, (C) as dead as a door-nail.
- _____ 2. Scrooge had been (A) Marley's partner, sole friend, and sole mourner, (B) saddened by Marley's death, (C) denied any part in settling Marley's affairs or access to the property he left behind.
- _____ 3. Scrooge was tight-fisted, solitary, and (A) always carried his own low temperature about with him, (B) the richest man in the whole city, (C) gruff with those who mistakenly called him by his dead partner's name.
- _____ 4. How did Scrooge feel about the fact that people did not speak to him and went out of their way to avoid him? He (A) was offended but didn't consider anyone worthy of his complaint, (B) was too busy running his business to notice, (C) liked it that way.
- _____ 5. Though it was three o'clock the Christmas Eve that Scrooge sat in his counting-house, (A) the nearby shops were deserted and people had hurried home to celebrate the holiday, (B) dense fog had come pouring in causing it to be quite dark and making nearby houses appear as phantoms, (C) the last ember in the fire that warmed Scrooge's office had gone out.
- _____ 6. Scrooge's clerk couldn't replenish his small fire because (A) there was not a single chunk of coal left in the office, (B) Scrooge deducted the cost of each coal from his pay, (C) the coal-box was in Scrooge's room, and he threatened to fire the clerk when he came for coal.
- _____ 7. How did Scrooge respond to his nephew's wishing him a merry Christmas? He (A) said "Bah! Humbug!" and asked his nephew what reason he had to be merry since he was poor, (B) laughed and called Christmas an excuse for not working and being foolish, (C) ignored him and called his merry greeting "nothing but humbug!"
- _____ 8. Scrooge was (A) as poor as his nephew, (B) the owner of quite a bit of property, but he had very little cash, (C) rich.

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Stave Two **The First of Three Spirits**



Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. It was past two when Scrooge went to bed, but when he awoke the church clock struck twelve.
- _____ 2. Marley's ghost bothered Scrooge, and he was not able to fully convince himself that it was all a dream.
- _____ 3. The Ghost of Christmas Past appeared exactly at half past midnight with a great thunderous roar hovering above Scrooge's bed.
- _____ 4. The figure had the appearance of an old man with a child's proportions, white hair but not a wrinkle in its face, a white tunic trimmed with summer flowers, and a branch of fresh, green holly in its hand.
- _____ 5. The specter's belt sparkled and glittered from one part to another, causing its appearance to fluctuate.
- _____ 6. The creature was the Ghost of Scrooge's past.
- _____ 7. As Scrooge begged him to do, the Ghost covered his head with his cap so that the light beaming from the top of it disappeared.
- _____ 8. It was, the Spirit said, Scrooge and people like him who had made the cap he carried and had forced him to wear it so that the light did not shine.
- _____ 9. The Ghost said that it had come for Scrooge's welfare and reclamation.

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Stave Four **The Last of the Spirits**

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Was the gloomy, mysterious third Phantom shrouded in a black garment so that its only visible part was one outstretched hand?
- _____ 2. Did the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come speak to Scrooge in solemn words about the shadows of the future?
- _____ 3. Had Scrooge grown so used to ghostly company that he felt no fear in the presence of the third Phantom?
- _____ 4. Did Scrooge express to the Ghost that he hoped to live to be another man from what he had been and that he was prepared to accompany him with a thankful heart?
- _____ 5. To Scrooge, did it seem as if he were being carried along in the shadow of the Phantom's dress?
- _____ 6. Were the group of businessmen, whom Scrooge had seen often, sorrowful and brokenhearted as they discussed the death of a rich man?
- _____ 7. Did the businessmen discuss the large number of people who would most likely attend the dead man's funeral?
- _____ 8. Did the two businessmen that Scrooge knew say that Old Scratch got his own at last?
- _____ 9. Were the things that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come presented to Scrooge happening at Christmas-time?
- _____ 10. When he did not see a likeness of himself where he should have been, did Scrooge feel great terror?
- _____ 11. Was it in a poor, filthy part of town where the Phantom allowed Scrooge to see the charwoman, the laundress, and the undertaker's man meeting at old Joe's junk shop?
- _____ 12. Had the three people who went into the junk shop stolen things from an old man who died without anyone to look after him?
- _____ 13. Had the first woman taken the bed-curtains and the blankets while the dead man was still in his bed?
- _____ 14. Did any of the three people or the junk dealer speak of the dead man as being generous, kind-hearted, and well-liked?
- _____ 15. Did the woman who took the burial shirt off the dead man's corpse joke that he had made it possible for her to do so?
- _____ 16. Was Scrooge able to see that the dead man being discussed was much like him?
- _____ 17. When the Phantom took him into the room where the dead man lay, was Scrooge eager to remove the sheet that covered the body's face?
- _____ 18. Did Scrooge beg the Spirit to show him any person in town who felt emotion because of the man's death?
- _____ 19. In the scene that the Phantom brought to Scrooge, were both the woman and her husband happy to hear that the man to whom they were in debt was dead?

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Stave Five The End of It



the Time before him
Christmas
the door knocker
come and see him

sobbing
the boy in Sunday clothes
back payments
pleasure and happiness
Tiny Tim

a drunken man
the big prize turkey
a delighted smile
his nephew
merry Christmas

laugh
a cab
danced
Bob Cratchit

From the list above, choose the word or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank.
All answers will be used at least once. Some answers will be used more than once.

- _____ 1. Scrooge said there were a great many of these included in the sum he promised the portly old gentleman.
- _____ 2. As Scrooge shaved, his hand continued to shake and he also did this.
- _____ 3. Much to his delight, Scrooge found that he had returned to his room and had not missed this.
- _____ 4. After his walk, Scrooge went to see this person.
- _____ 5. Scrooge had this sent to Bob Cratchit, and he thought it was a good joke that his clerk wouldn't know who it was from.
- _____ 6. As Scrooge had hoped, this person was late coming into the office the day after Christmas.

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Whole Book Test



Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. On the Christmas Eve that Scrooge's story began, the city was covered by (A) a heavy snow that kept people home, (B) a dense fog that brought on early darkness, (C) a warm sun that brought a sense of merriment.
- _____ 2. Which of the following was **not** true of Ebenezer Scrooge in the beginning? He (A) was well-respected as a businessman, but he had not made a lot of money, (B) was tight-fisted, solitary, and always carried his own low temperature about with him, (C) was happy with the fact that people did not speak to him and went out of their way to avoid him.
- _____ 3. Jacob Marley had been (A) the merchant who had occupied the shop next to Scrooge's office, (B) Scrooge's partner and his only friend, (C) a happy man who enjoyed people and the celebration of Christmas.
- _____ 4. Jacob Marley had died (A) the previous year while dining at a tavern with Scrooge, (B) two months before, following a long illness, (C) seven years ago on Christmas Eve.
- _____ 5. Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit didn't have a warm fire because (A) there was no stove in his area of the office, (B) Scrooge threatened to fire him if he put more coal on it, (C) there was no coal left and none could be bought on Christmas Eve.
- _____ 6. What was Scrooge's response when his nephew wished him a merry Christmas? He said, (A) "Bah! Humbug!", (B) "The day is not merry when one does not work," (C) "Wish your merriness upon someone who wants it!"
- _____ 7. Scrooge said people who celebrated Christmas were fools because (A) it didn't make them any richer, they were a year older, and it did them no good, (B) it was much like the way they behaved when they fell in love, (C) Christmas was for children, not adults.

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Something to Think About. . . Something to Write About. . .

1. Dickens playfully began his ghostly Christmas story with the simile *Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail*. He couldn't determine, he wrote, what there was *particularly dead about a door-nail*, and furthermore he believed that a coffin-nail was *the deadest piece of iron-mongery in the trade*. Rather than risk ruining the country, he decided not to question the wisdom of his ancestors and use the *dead as a door-nail* simile without any changes.
 - What are several similes that are a common part of your day-to-day conversations? Like Dickens, can you think of better ways to make the same comparisons? Can you create a simile that fits modern technology?
 - Our language is peppered with similes, some of which are used so often they have become trite. Write several **new** similes. Explain what they mean and how they should be used.
2. From the list below, choose the **four** words that you think **best** describe Scrooge as the person he was before the appearance of Marley's ghost. Use events from the story as well as the words' definitions to explain why you chose particular terms.

grouchy
reclusive
despicable
repugnant

reprehensible
pitiful
miserly
loathsome

melancholy
insensitive
avaricious
callous

caustic
gruff
antagonistic
lonely