

# *A Christmas Carol*

WORKSHEET A

*A Christmas Carol* (1843), a short novel by the English nineteenth-century writer Charles Dickens, is one of the most popular books ever written about Christmas, and one of the most famous stories about a character showing 'Christmas spirit' by being kind and generous towards others.

The story begins with a mean-spirited old moneylender called Ebenezer Scrooge working in his London office on Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, is cold because Scrooge doesn't give him enough coal for the fire in his room. Scrooge's nephew comes round to invite him to a Christmas party, but Scrooge angrily says no. After Scrooge has returned alone to his cold, dark home, he receives a frightening visit from the ghost of his ex-business partner, Marley, who died seven years earlier. The ghost has to walk the Earth as a punishment for being mean-spirited during his lifetime, and tells Scrooge that the same thing could happen to him. He also tells Scrooge he will be visited by three more ghosts before the night has ended.

The first of the other ghosts to arrive is 'The Ghost of Christmas Past'. It takes Scrooge on a journey back to his childhood, then he sees his ex-fiancée, Belle, who left him because he loved money more he loved her.

Next comes 'The Ghost of Christmas Present', who shows Scrooge what Christmas will be like that year. Invisible to those he is watching, Scrooge sees Bob Cratchit and his large family making a Christmas meal and enjoying themselves, even though they are poor. He sees Bob Cratchit's disabled son, Tiny Tim, a brave and cheerful boy. The ghost also takes Scrooge to his nephew's party, where he has such a good time that he doesn't want to leave.

The last ghost to appear is 'The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come'. It takes Scrooge into the future, where he sees that an old man has just died but no one is unhappy about it. Scrooge asks the ghost to tell him who the old man was: the answer, of course, is that it was Scrooge himself.

All the things the ghosts have shown him make Scrooge want to become a different person. After he wakes up on Christmas Day, he starts by sending a big Christmas turkey to the Cratchit family and by going to his nephew's party. Right at the end of the story we learn that Scrooge's Christmas spirit is not just temporary: in the future he really does become a much better person, generally being kind to people and treating Tiny Tim like his own son.

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WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Match the words (1-14) from the text on Worksheet A with the definitions (A-N).

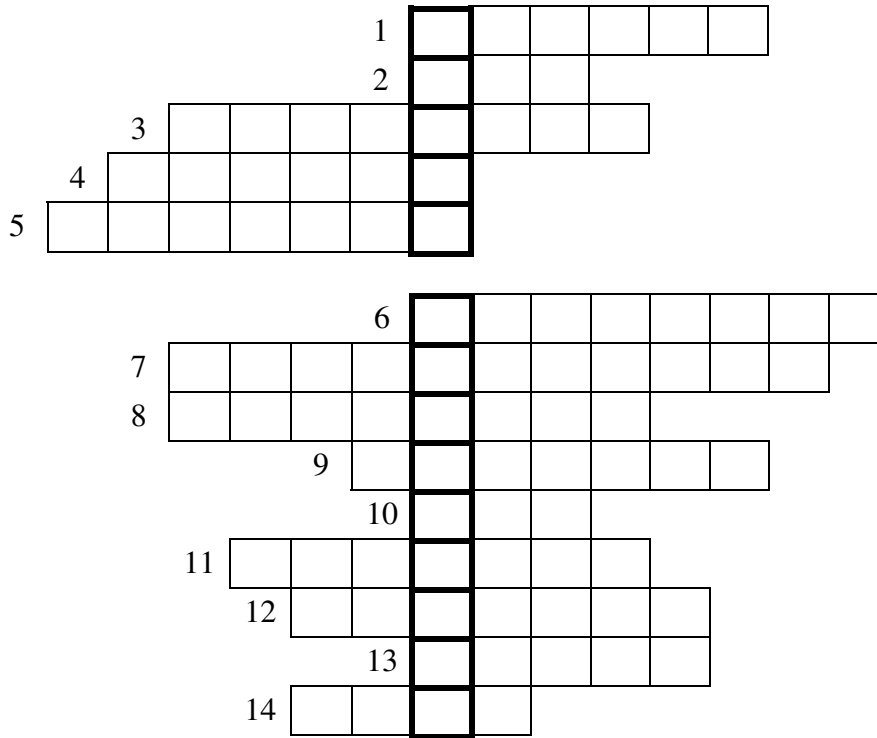
<b>1</b> temporary	<b>A</b> something that is done to you because you did something bad
<b>2</b> coal	<b>B</b> A person who is _____ can't use a part of their body, either because of injury or disease
<b>3</b> disabled	<b>C</b> Something that is _____ makes you feel afraid.
<b>4</b> turkey	<b>D</b> the opposite of rich
<b>5</b> clerk	<b>E</b> a room or building where people work
<b>6</b> generous	<b>F</b> the son of your brother or sister (or the son of your husband's or wife's brother or sister)
<b>7</b> dark	<b>G</b> lasting only for a limited period of time
<b>8</b> nephew	<b>H</b> a solid black fuel that comes from the ground
<b>9</b> frightening	<b>I</b> A person who is _____ gives a lot (e.g. of money, or time) to other people
<b>10</b> partner	<b>J</b> without much, or without any, light
<b>11</b> poor	<b>K</b> the opposite of generous
<b>12</b> punishment	<b>L</b> a person whose job is to work with documents, for example in an office
<b>13</b> office	<b>M</b> one of two or more people who own a company
<b>14</b> mean (or mean-spirited)	<b>N</b> a large bird, similar to a chicken, that people often eat at Christmas

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WORKSHEET C

### Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the friendly words Scrooge says to other people near the end of *A Christmas Carol* – but certainly not at the start – will read from top to bottom.



1. The first ghost Scrooge sees is that of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Most of the story of *A Christmas Carol* takes place on Christmas \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Unlike Tiny Tim, Scrooge is not a \_\_\_\_\_ person.
4. Four ghosts \_\_\_\_\_ in the story.
5. Each of the three Christmas ghosts take Scrooge on a different \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ family enjoy their Christmas meal.
7. Marley's ghost is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. At the end of the story Scrooge becomes a much more \_\_\_\_\_ person.
9. Belle was once Scrooge's \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to his nephew's party, the people there cannot \_\_\_\_\_ him.
11. Marley was Scrooge's \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Scrooge enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ at his nephew's party when The Ghost of Christmas Present takes him there.
13. Scrooge goes home \_\_\_\_\_ on Christmas Eve.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ ghost takes Scrooge to the future.