
e-lesson

Week starting: December 21, 2009

1. A Christmas Carol

The subject of this week's lesson is Charles Dickens' classic novel *A Christmas Carol* (1843).

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above).

How to use the lesson

1. Explain the meaning of "spirit" (the attitude of people in a group) and ask your students what they understand by "Christmas spirit" – or, if Christmas is not celebrated in their country, ask them if they have any festivals that are connected with certain sentiments or kinds of behavior. Can they think of any classic stories about Christmas (or other festivals) from literary history? Ask your students if they have heard of Charles Dickens, and if so, what they know about him.
2. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Note that some of the words that might be new are not in the glossary because they form part of Exercise 1.
3. Hand out Worksheet B, divide the students into pairs and ask them to do Exercise 1, in which they have to match the words from the text on Worksheet A with the definitions.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C and ask them to do the crossword.
6. Check answers in open class.

Answers:**Exercise 1**

1. G 2. H 3. B 4. N 5. L 6. I 7. J 8. F 9. C 10. M 11. D 12. A
13. E 14. K

Exercise 2

1. Marley 2. Eve 3. cheerful 4. appear 5. journey 6. Cratchit 7. frightening
8. generous 9. fiancée 10. see 11. partner 12. himself 13. alone 14. last

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *Merry Christmas* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.stormfax.com/dickens.htm>

The complete text of *A Christmas Carol*, some excerpts from which would be accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/achristmascarol/>

The official website of Disney's recent 3-D movie adaptation (in which the parts of Scrooge and the three ghosts are all played by Jim Carrey), with videos. Accessible to pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.trivia-library.com/c/biography-of-british-parliament-miser-john-elwes.htm>

The story of the eccentric British politician, John Elwes, who is believed to be the real-life person Dickens based Scrooge upon. Although Elwes went to even greater lengths to save money, he was very generous with others, unlike Scrooge. Challenging for pre-intermediate level.