

A Christmas Carol Stave 1: Marley's Ghost

1. What is the first simile in the novel? **Marley was dead as a doornail**
2. What does the author think about this simile? (Explain) **He thinks it's silly because there's nothing particularly dead about a doornail**
3. What was the relationship between Scrooge and Marley? **Business partners**
4. What is Dickens trying to tell us when he says that Scrooge was Marley's "sole executor, his sole administrator, his sole assign, his sole residuary legatee, his sole friend, and sole mourner" (1-2)? **Scrooge was the only person in the world that cared for Marley.**
5. What device is used in the following passage? "There is no doubt Marley is dead. This must be distinctly understood or nothing wonderful can come from this story. If we were not perfectly convinced that Hamlet's father had died before the play began, there would be nothing more remarkable in his taking a stroll at night..." (2). (You may need to use your Yellow Pages.)
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. **Allusion**
 - d. Hyperbole
6. Explain why you chose the device you did in #5. **Dickens brought up another famous story**
7. "Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster" (2) is an example of what device?
 - a. **Simile**
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Allusion
 - d. Hyperbole
8. Based on the above description of Scrooge, how would you characterize him and why (use text evidence)? **Cold, mean; nobody likes him, they are all afraid of him; (text evidence can mention people not saying hello to him, no asking for directions, seeing—eye dogs pulled their masters into doorways)**
9. What's the temperature like inside Scrooge's office? (Explain) **It's cold, and he won't let his clerk take another coal for his fire**
10. Why does Scrooge think his nephew should not be merry? **He's poor**
11. What is ironic about this statement? **Scrooge thinks that you shouldn't be merry if you're poor, but he is rich, and yet he is not merry**
12. How does Scrooge feel about Christmas? (Give text evidence) **he hates it "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart" (6).**
13. What do the two men want from Scrooge (be specific)? **Money to help the poor**
14. Where does Scrooge believe the poor belong – list two places (see page 9)? **Prisons and workhouses**

15. Why does Scrooge say that his clerk is picking his pocket every December 25th? ***His clerk wants Christmas Day off with pay, and Scrooge feels like he should not have to pay for work that is not being done***
16. Contrast the way that Scrooge spent his evening on page 13 with the way that his clerk spent the evening. ***The clerk played outside and celebrated the day, while Scrooge went and ate a lonely dinner***
17. Explain the personification used in this passage. ***The house ran played hide and seek and never found its way back; the weather meditated***
18. What happened to the door knocker? ***It turned in to Marley's face***
19. What does Scrooge say might be the reason that he is seeing the ghost of Marley? ***Bad food***
20. Why does Marley's spirit wander the earth? ***Because he never did it when he was alive***
21. What does Marley's chain represent? ***His greed in life***
22. "'Why did I walk through crowds of fellow beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to the blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode?'" (24) is an example of what device?
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. ***Allusion***
 - d. Hyperbole
23. Is this the first time that Marley has been to Scrooge's house since he died? Give text evidence. ***No; "I have sat beside you many and many a day" (24).***
24. Why did Scrooge choose not to say "humbug" at the end of the stave? ***He was beginning to take to heart the things that Marley had told him***
25. Why did Marley appear to Scrooge? ***To warn him that if he didn't change, his fate would be the same***