

# A Christmas Carol **Stave I: Marley's Ghost**

1. What is the first simile in the novel?
2. What does the author think about this simile? (Explain)
3. What was the relationship between Scrooge and Marley?
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)?
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.
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

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm him, no wintery weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often "came down" handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o'clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such a place of Scrooge.

8. Based on the above description of Scrooge, how would you characterize him and why (use text evidence)?
9. What's the temperature like inside Scrooge's office? (Explain)
10. Why does Scrooge think his nephew should not be merry?
11. What is ironic about this statement?
12. How does Scrooge feel about Christmas? (Give text evidence)

13. What do the two men want from Scrooge (be specific)?
14. Where does Scrooge believe the poor belong – list two places (see page 9)?
15. Why does Scrooge say that his clerk is picking his pocket every December 25<sup>th</sup>?

...the clerk...went down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of boys, twenty times, in honor of it being Christmas Eve, and then ran home to Camden Town, as hard as he could pelt, to play at Blindman's Buff.

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's book, went home to bed...They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a lowering pile of building up a yard, where it had so little business to be that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing hid-and-seek with other houses, and have forgotten the way out again.

Use the excerpt above to answer the next two questions.

16. Contrast the way that Scrooge spent his evening with the way that his clerk spent the evening.
17. Explain the personification used in this passage?
18. What happened to the door knocker?
19. What does Scrooge say might be the reason that he is seeing the ghost of Marley?
20. Why does Marley's spirit wander the earth?
21. What does Marley's chain represent?
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.
24. Why did Scrooge choose not to say "humbug" at the end of the stave?
25. Why did Marley appear to Scrooge?