***A Christmas Carol:***

**Introduction**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Drama Term | Vocabulary | Definitions |
| Stage Directions | Scenery |  |
|  | Props |  |
|  | Plot |  |
|  | Exposition |  |
|  | Rising Action |  |
|  | Climax |  |
|  | Falling Action |  |
|  | Scenes |  |
|  | Acts |  |
| Characters | Main |  |
|  | Minor |  |
|  | Narrator |  |
|  | Foil |  |
| Dialogue | Purpose |  |

Similarities between all three:

Characteristics of

Drama

Characteristics of

Movies

Characteristics of

Short Story

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**Scene 1**

**Homework: Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Page Number | Word | Context Guess | Dictionary Definition |
| 254 | Derived |  |  |
|  | Festive |  |  |
| 256 | Idle |  |  |
|  | Clad |  |  |
|  | Obscured |  |  |

**Written Response Questions**

1. Who is the foil character to Scrooge? Why?
2. What is mood?
3. Describe the mood inside Scrooge’s office.
4. Describe the mood outside the office.
5. Describe the mood of the poor house.

**Discussion Question**

1. How do the different settings and moods in this first scene help foreshadow the characters and events to come?
2. Read the first part of Dickens’s novel. Compare the novel to the play. What is the same? What is different? Why?

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**Scene 2**

**Homework: Action Verbs**

An action verb tells what the subject of the sentence does. Strong action verbs can make your writing more effective and concise. They also help readers visualize action.

*Example:*

“The percussion thunders. Scrooge hurls himself through the descending snowflakes and sends the children scattering.” (pg. 253)

*Part 1: Circle the action verbs in the following passage.*

Scrooge reads his book. Somewhere, a bell sounds. Scrooge raises his head and turns it slightly. Meanwhile, a poorhouse warder clangs a dinner bell. The shabby residents file in for supper. Each clutches an empty dish. The warder fills the dishes with thin gruel. The residents dislike the taste and texture of this common meal. However, hunger sharpens their appetites.

*Part 2: Complete each sentence by writing an action verb that fits the meaning.*

At first, Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christmas.

A gentlemen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the bell at Scrooge’s home.

Marley’s ghost \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge.

**Written Response Questions**

1. What is symbolism?
2. What does the funeral procession symbolize.
3. What do the chains symbolize?

**Discussion Question**

1. Who do you think the girl with the lantern symbolize? Why does Scrooge call her a boy?
2. How do you envision this scene to look? Scrooge to look and act? Marley to look and act?
3. Watch the different versions of this scene with Marley’s ghost. Which do you prefer and why?

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**Scene 3**

**Homework: Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Page Number | Word | Context Guess | Dictionary Definition |
| 262 | Brusque |  |  |
|  | Bluster |  |  |
| 263 | Gaiety |  |  |
|  | Discordant |  |  |
|  | Burdensome |  |  |

**Written Response Questions**

1. Why does Scrooge’s sweetheart return the ring? Why doesn’t Scrooge pursue her?
2. What does the spirit mean by saying, “I am always with you”?

**Discussion**

1. What does the Spirit of Christmas Past symbolize?
2. Consider the dramatic devices of this play (dialogue, stage directions, characters, acts and scenes, etc.). Which ones are effective? Which ones are not? Why?

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**Scene 4**

**Written Response Questions**

1. List the images of light and dark.

Light:

Dark:

1. What is the significance of these images?

**Discussion Question**

1. Why can’t Scrooge bear to hear the children sing? How does this relate to Scrooge’s inability to love?
2. Reread the passage about the children being Hunger and Ignorance. Historically, what is Charles Dickens saying to readers?
3. How has Scrooge’s character changed in this scene?

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**Scene 5**

**Homework: Analysis**

Analyze the three spirits that visit Scrooge. Complete the chart.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Appearance | Actions | Purpose |
| Spirit of Christmas Past |  |  |  |
| Spirit of Christmas Present |  |  |  |
| Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come |  |  |  |

**Written Response Questions**

1. How do you think Scrooge felt when he saw Sparsit, the charwoman, and the cook laughing over his corpse and dividing his belongings? Explain.

**Discussion**

1. How has Scrooge’s character changed in this scene? How do you know?
2. Which spirit do you think has the greatest influence in motivating Scrooge to change his life? Why?
3. Watch the different movie versions of the three spirits. Which version do you prefer and why?

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**Scene 6**

**Written Response**

1. Why did Dickens set the story during Christmas time?
2. Why did Dickens name the story *A Christmas Carol*?
3. What is the theme of *A Christmas Carol*?

**Discussion**

1. Charles Dickens wrote about many serious problems of his time. How would you compare the problems of poor people today with the problems of poor people in Dickens’ time? Explain.
2. Why does Dickens include the girl and Tiny Tim in the story? What do they symbolize? How do they contribute to the mood and theme of the story?