

A quotation a day

24 quotations from all five staves, one for each day from 1 to 24 December

How to use it

One quotation for each day from 1 to 24 December. Read it, say it aloud, then cover it and write it from memory.

Answer the question in a sentence or two, then tick the box. By Christmas Eve you will have learnt 24 quotations from all five staves. In class, each day's quotation makes a five-minute starter.

Day	Quotation	Who and where	Think about	Learnt
1	"squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner"	Narrator, Stave 1	Why does Dickens pile up these words with no 'and' to slow them down?	☐
2	"solitary as an oyster"	Narrator, Stave 1	What can an oyster hide inside its shell, and what does that hint about Scrooge?	☐
3	"fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys"	Fred, Stave 1	What is Fred saying that rich and poor people have in common?	☐
4	"Are there no prisons?"	Scrooge, Stave 1	Who throws these words back at Scrooge later, and in which stave?	☐
5	"decrease the surplus population"	Scrooge, Stave 1	How does this phrase turn poor people into numbers?	☐
6	"I wear the chain I forged in life"	Marley's Ghost, Stave 1	Who made Marley's chain? Which verb tells you?	☐
7	"Mankind was my business"	Marley's Ghost, Stave 1	What did "business" mean to Scrooge, and what does Marley make it mean?	☐
8	"A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still."	The Ghost of Christmas Past, Stave 2	Which word from Stave 1 comes back here, and what does it suggest about how Scrooge became so cold?	☐
9	"The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune."	Scrooge, Stave 2	Why does Scrooge use money words to praise a kind man?	☐
10	"Another idol has displaced me"	Belle, Stave 2	What is the idol, and what has Scrooge given up for it?	☐
11	"You fear the world too much"	Belle, Stave 2	What has the fear of being poor done to Scrooge?	☐
12	"God bless us every one!"	Tiny Tim, Stave 3	Who is included in "every one", and why does Dickens give this line to Tiny Tim?	☐
13	"with an interest he had never felt before"	Narrator, Stave 3	What does Scrooge's question about Tiny Tim show about him now?	☐
14	"If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."	The Ghost of Christmas Present, Stave 3	How does it feel for Scrooge to hear his own words again? What has changed since Stave 1?	☐
15	"the Founder of the Feast"	Bob Cratchit, Stave 3	Why is the title ironic here, and when does it come true?	☐

Day	Quotation	Who and where	Think about	Learnt
16	"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want."	The Ghost of Christmas Present, Stave 3	Why might Dickens make this warning so short and blunt?	☐
17	"The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached."	Narrator, Stave 4	Read it aloud. What do the three adverbs do to the pace?	☐
18	"plundered and bereft, unwatched, unwept, uncared for"	Narrator, Stave 4	What do the three words that begin with 'un' tell you is missing?	☐
19	"I am not the man I was."	Scrooge, Stave 4	Is Scrooge's change complete here, or is it still a promise?	☐
20	"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."	Scrooge, Stave 4	What would keeping Christmas "all the year" look like?	☐
21	"I am as light as a feather"	Scrooge, Stave 5	What weight has been lifted? Think back to Marley's chain.	☐
22	"I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family"	Scrooge, Stave 5	Which employer from Stave 2 is Scrooge now like?	☐
23	"He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew"	Narrator, Stave 5	How many times does Dickens use "good" here, and why repeat it?	☐
24	"he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge"	Narrator, Stave 5	What does it mean to "keep Christmas" by the end of the novella?	☐

On 25 December, take the day off. Scrooge did, in the end.

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