

Boiled with his own pudding

Scrooge • How Dickens presents Scrooge's attitude to Christmas

Name:

Class:

Date:

Do Now

1. What is Scrooge's business?

2. How long has Marley been dead when the story begins?

3. What is the name of Scrooge's clerk?

4. What does 'humbug' mean?

5. Why did Dickens call his chapters 'staves'?

Read

Scrooge argues with Fred • Charles Dickens • 1843 • Stave 1

- 1 "What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without
- 5 money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot
- 10 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. He should!"

Check your understanding

1. What does Scrooge say Christmas is for poor people like Fred?

2. What would Scrooge do to anyone who goes about saying 'Merry Christmas'?

3. What does Scrooge tell Fred to do?

Quotation explosion

“should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart”

AO1 What does Scrooge want done to people who say ‘Merry Christmas’? What does it show?

AO2 What is the effect of the hyperbole in “boiled with his own pudding”?

AO2 Why does Dickens choose “a stake of holly through his heart”?

AO3 Why would Dickens want readers to judge Scrooge’s view of Christmas?

Rhetorical question

A question asked for effect. Scrooge’s questions show he thinks he is obviously right.

“What’s Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money”

Your task: Write one sentence explaining what this rhetorical question shows about how Scrooge sees Christmas.

The question

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 of A Christmas Carol and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Scrooge’s nephew, Fred, has come to wish him a merry Christmas.

Starting with this extract, how does Dickens present Scrooge’s attitude to Christmas?

Write about:

- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s attitude to Christmas in this extract
- how Dickens presents Scrooge’s attitude to Christmas in the novel as a whole.

Today: plan your answer in 9 minutes. No essay.

My argument (thesis)	
Point 1 + quotation	
Point 2 + quotation	
Point 3 + quotation	
Context to use	

Have a go

Read Scrooge's words to the charity collectors. Answer in two or three sentences.

Scrooge and the charity collectors · Charles Dickens · Stave 1

- 1 "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support
- 5 the establishments I have mentioned – they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there."

What does this add to your view of Scrooge's attitude? Use one quotation.

Green pen

- ☐ My thesis says how Scrooge's attitude changes and why Dickens shows it.
- ☐ Each point has a short quotation and a named method.
- ☐ At least one point goes beyond the extract to another stave.