RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · A CHRISTMAS CAROL · DRILL 1

Boiled with his own pudding

Scrooge

Today: how Dickens presents Scrooge’s attitude to Christmas

27 minutes

Do Now

Know

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”?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. What is Scrooge's business?
   He runs a counting-house, the firm of Scrooge and Marley, dealing in money and debts.

2. How long has Marley been dead when the story begins?
   Seven years, to the night.

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

4. What does "humbug" mean?
   Nonsense, or a fraud or trick.

5. Why did Dickens call his chapters "staves"?
   A stave is a verse of a song, so each chapter is like a verse of a carol, a Christmas song.

Focus reminder

Know

What the A Christmas Carol question asks you to do

Start with the extract. Pick short quotations and zoom in on one word or method.

Write “Dickens presents Scrooge as…”. Scrooge is a character Dickens built to teach his readers.

Move to the novel as a whole: how is Scrooge different in Stave 1 and Stave 5?

Say why: what did Dickens want his readers in 1843 to think, feel or do?

Scrooge argues with Fred

Read

Charles Dickens · 1843 · Stave 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 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 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!"