Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***A Christmas Carol***

**by Charles Dickens**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***A CHRISTMAS CAROL* – CHARACTERIZATION & FOILS**

**Objective:** Keeping a character log for Scrooge and Fred in order to understand foils.

**Activity:** As *A Christmas Carol* progresses, more and more is learned about Ebenezer Scrooge. We learn from other characters’ observations, Scrooge’s actions, and Scrooge’s words. As you read, keep a “character log” on Scrooge and his foil—Fred. In the left column, note down any significant or interesting actions or speeches of Scrooge’s and Fred’s, as well as any insightful observations others make about these two characters. In the right column, comment on what each entry in the left column tells you about Scrooge’s and Fred’s characters. If you quote directly from the book, remember to record page numbers along with the quotations. Once you fill up the spaces allotted on this page, please use the back to continue your character log. **You should make a minimum of six entries for each character**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OBSERVATIONS, ACTIONS, DIAGLOGUE**  | **WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT SCROOGE/FRED?** |
| SCROOGE:FRED: |  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***A CHRISTMAS CAROL* - THEME AND CRITICAL THINKING**

**Objective**: Considering the significance of one of the novel’s themes in our own lives

**Activity:** *A Christmas Carol* posits the idea that tangible riches (an abundance of food, luxuries, and so on) mean nothing unless they are accompanied by intangible ones, such as love and warmth of spirit. Intangible riches, Dickens argues, however, do have value independent of tangible ones; one can merrily celebrate Christmas even if one has no turkey or presents in one’s possession. With your group, brainstorm and list examples of the tangible riches you would like to possess as an adult and the intangible ones you would like to have in your adult lives. Then decide, as a group, which kind of riches you would choose if you could only have those in one of the columns. If members disagree, work together to come to a consensus: your group’s decision must be unanimous. Does your group come to the same conclusion as Dickens does in *A Christmas Carol*? Be prepared to explain and defend your answer to the rest of the class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TANGIBLE RICHES**  | **INTANGIBLE RICHES** |
|  |  |

If you could only pick one category of riches, which would it be? Why?

Based on your findings in *A Christmas Carol*, which side do you believe Charles Dickens would pick? Provide evidence from the novel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***A CHRISTMAS CAROL* - SYMBOLISM**

**Objective**: Creating visuals to complement and extend the meaning of the text

**Activity**: Much of *A Christmas Carol* reads like one great collage of images. Dickens energetically describes scenes of plenty and festivity throughout the town: heavily laden tables and, even where such tables are scarce, light hearts permeate the pages. In addition, all of the ghosts who haunt Scrooge are described with specific details which include important symbolism. At a number of points, Scrooge begins to feel close to and involved with the people who are celebrating Christmas—but a huge, seemingly impassable gulf lies between him and them. Using your own drawn or painted illustrations, computer images, and/or images found in magazines and catalogues, create a collage that captures the descriptions of Dicken’s London. Somewhere in your collage, depict Scrooge as you envision him and the Ghosts of Christmas. Be prepared to share it with the class and explain the artistic decisions you made, including how they specifically relate to the story. You may use the back of this paper or attach a separate sheet no larger than 11 x 17.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL - PARTICIPATION QUIZ**

**PART I:** As you read and listen to the story, decide if the sentences are true or false. If they are false, correct them.

1. Ebenezer Scrooge is a generous man. T F

2. Every year Scrooge spends Christmas day with his nephew Fred. T F

3. Ebenezer gives nothing to charity. T F

4. Jacob Marley has been dead for seven years. T F

5. The Ghost of Christmas Past is silent. T F

6. Scrooge and Belle got a divorce. T F

7. Bob Cratchit has a son called Tiny Tim. T F

8. The Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge his own grave. T F

9. On Christmas morning, Scrooge buys a chicken for the Cratchit family. T F

10. Scrooge promises to change his way of life and become a better person. T F

**PART II:** As you read and listen to the story, put the events of the story in the correct order.

\_\_\_\_\_\_Scrooge sees his own grave.

\_\_\_\_\_\_A charity worker asks Scrooge to give money to the poor.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge buys a turkey for the Cratchit family.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Ghost of Christmas Present meets Scrooge.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge sees himself at school.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jacob Marley warns Scrooge to change his way of life.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge sees his girlfriend leave him.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fred invites his uncle to his house for Christmas.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning and is very happy.

**PART III**: Use the novel to help you answer the following questions.

What one word does Scrooge use to describe Christmas?

1. Humbug
2. Bugger
3. Huzzah
4. Hootenanny

Marley’s chains are an important symbol in the story. Describe them. What are they made of? What is hanging from them? What might these things symbolize?

Why don’t Belle and Ebenezer get married? How does this relate to the theme of the story?

Describe another person (either from your own life or from another book you have read) that reminds you of Scrooge? How are they similar? How are they different?

Scrooge is the only dynamic character in the novel. In a paragraph, describe his rite of passage. How does he change? Use evidence and events from the story to support your controlling idea.

**ANSWER KEY – A CHRISTMAS CAROL QUIZ**

**PART I**

1. False. Ebeneezer Scrooge is a mean man.

2. False. Scrooge never spends Christmas with his nephew, Fred.

3. True.

4. True.

5. False. The Ghost of Christmas Past speaks to Scrooge.

6. False. Scrooge and Belle never got married.

7. False. Bob Crachit’s son is called Tiny Tim.

8. True.

9. False. Scrooge buys a turkey for the Crachit family.

10. True.

**PART II**

9. Fred invites his uncle to his house for Christmas.

2. A charity worker asks Scrooge to give money to the poor.

7. Jacob Marley warns Scrooge to change his way of life.

3. The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives.

6. Scrooge sees himself at school.

8. Scrooge sees his girlfriend leave him.

5. The Ghost of Christmas Present meets Scrooge.

1. Scrooge sees his own grave.

10. Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning and is very happy.

4. Scrooge buys a turkey for the Crachit family