

## CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) \_\_\_ a very popular writer who \_\_\_\_\_in England in Queen Victoria's time (1819-1901). He \_\_\_ famous for the humour and sympathy of his characterization and his criticism of social injustice.

### A Christmas Carol

#### I. EBENEZER SCROOGE OF "SCROOGE & MARLEY"

Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley \_\_\_\_\_colleagues. They \_\_\_\_\_a business called "Scrooge & Marley" and they \_\_\_\_\_ together. They \_\_\_\_\_in the same house, too. They \_\_\_\_\_very rich because they \_\_\_\_\_not generous or kind. People \_\_\_\_\_afraid of them and they never \_\_\_\_\_ . One 24th December Marley \_\_\_\_\_ and seven years later ...

It \_\_\_ Christmas Eve and Bob Cratchit \_\_\_ working in Scrooge's office. He \_\_\_ Scrooge's clerk. He \_\_\_\_\_a wife and six children but Scrooge only \_\_\_\_\_ him very little money, so he \_\_\_ very poor. Suddenly a man \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Uncle!" It \_\_\_ Scrooge's nephew. "Would you like to have Christmas dinner with us tomorrow?" Scrooge \_\_\_ not happy. He didn't like Christmas. "Bah, Humbug!" he \_\_\_\_\_ in disgust! (humbug = sciocchezze)

#### II. THE OFFICE IS \_\_\_\_\_ FOR CHRISTMAS

Two men \_\_\_\_\_ the office to collect money for the poor. Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ no money! A little boy \_\_\_\_\_ a carol outside the door. Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ him away. In the evening he \_\_\_\_\_ , "Cratchit, you can stay at home tomorrow. I will pay you but it is not right to pay a man who stays at home!" Then Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ the office.

#### III. SCROOGE MEETS AN OLD FRIEND

Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ to his usual restaurant to eat. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ home. His flat \_\_\_ in an office building. At night he \_\_\_ the only person in the building. As he \_\_\_\_\_ the door, he \_\_\_\_\_ at the door knocker: he \_\_\_\_\_ Marley's face! Going upstairs he \_\_\_\_\_ the shadows of a strange horse and carriage: it \_\_\_ a hearse which carries dead people to the cemetery! In his room an old bell \_\_\_\_\_ ringing! He \_\_\_\_\_ chains moving in the living room! Suddenly the ghost of Jacob Marley \_\_\_\_\_ in chains!!

#### IV. SCROOGE TALKS TO MARLEY'S GHOST

Scrooge didn't believe in ghosts until Marley really \_\_\_\_\_ him. Marley \_\_\_\_\_ , "I \_\_\_\_\_ this long, heavy chain during my life. It is the chain of not-caring, of self-love, when money is more important than caring!" Then he \_\_\_\_\_ , "Scrooge, you are making yourself a long, heavy chain, too!" To help Scrooge change lifestyle he \_\_\_\_\_ to send three ghosts.

#### V. THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

*The next night a ghost \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ him back in time. They \_\_\_\_\_ to his village where he \_\_\_\_\_ his old friends and his old school. He \_\_\_\_\_ a little boy alone in the school. It \_\_\_ little Scrooge. He \_\_\_\_\_ happy. He \_\_\_\_\_ the little boy singing carols at the office today! He \_\_\_ sorry because he \_\_\_\_\_ frightened the boy. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ his little sister talking to a bigger Scrooge, "Come home for dinner!" Old Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ to the ghost, "That's my sister. She's dead now but my nephew is her son." He \_\_\_ sad.*

#### VI. SCROOGE AT FEZZIWIG'S

*Then the ghost \_\_\_\_\_ him to old Mr. Fezziwig. Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_started working for Mr. Fezziwig together with Dick Wilkins. Mr. Fezziwig \_\_\_ very kind. He \_\_\_\_\_ life and work enjoyable. This \_\_\_ much more important than money. Scrooge \_\_\_ very happy because he \_\_\_\_\_ a party organised by Mr. Fezziwig, with dancing, music and many happy people. Then the ghost disappeared!*

## VII. THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRE\_\_\_\_\_

Another ghost arrived. Together they visited the streets of London on Christmas Eve: everyone \_\_\_ happy, playing games, throwing snowballs, buying special food and pre\_\_\_\_\_s for Christmas.

"They \_\_\_\_\_ in a street in London. It \_\_\_ Christmas morning. There \_\_\_ snow everywhere. When people stepped on it, their boots \_\_\_\_\_ a rough, pleasant crunching noise as they walked along. They brushed the snow from the paths in front of their homes, and \_\_\_\_\_ it down from the house tops. Little boys \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_ great fun to watch the snow falling down into the road below, and breaking up into small white clouds when it \_\_\_\_\_ the ground.

The street itself \_\_\_ not very bright, but there \_\_\_ happiness everywhere. The people who \_\_\_\_\_ clearing the snow from their houses \_\_\_\_\_ full of fun. They called out to each other as they brushed the snow away. Sometimes they \_\_\_\_\_ snowballs at each other. They laughed if their snowballs \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong person, and they laughed even more if they \_\_\_\_\_ the right one.

The shop windows \_\_\_\_\_ full of light and colour. There \_\_\_\_\_ fat birds hanging in the meat shops, chickens and ducks, geese and turkeys. Every bird \_\_\_ ready to be taken home and cooked for Christmas dinner. If they \_\_\_\_\_ too big to be cooked at home, they \_\_\_\_\_ be cooked in the kitchens of the bakers' shops.

In the fruit shops there \_\_\_\_\_ heaps of oranges and lemons, apples and pears, with so many bright colours, - red, green, orange and yellow. All \_\_\_\_\_ ready for carrying home in paper bags to eat after dinner. In other shops you \_\_\_\_\_ smell the tea and the coffee, and that smell \_\_\_ mixed with the smell of cakes and puddings, all full of good things to eat, and looking very sweet."

## VIII. CHRISTMAS AT BOB CRATCHIT'S

The ghost \_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge to see Bob Cratchit's family celebrating Christmas. They are very poor but happy. They \_\_\_\_\_ a delicious goose, \_\_\_\_\_ wine, \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas pudding and then they played games. Scrooge \_\_\_ happy to see them. Then ghost \_\_\_\_\_ , "Tiny Tim, the smallest child, has problems with his legs. He is going to die." Scrooge \_\_\_ very sad.

## IX. CHRISTMAS AT SCROOGE'S NEPHEWS HOUSE

The ghost \_\_\_\_\_ Scrooge to his nephew's house. There he \_\_\_\_\_ a wonderful Christmas party with good food and games. Scrooge enjoyed watching the party.

## X. THE GHOST OF THE FUTURE

The 'Ghost of Yet to Come' arrived. It \_\_\_ all black and very frightening. It didn't speak and Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ n't see its face. It \_\_\_ a serious ghost. The ghost showed Scrooge the future: Scrooge \_\_\_ dead and everyone \_\_\_ happy because he \_\_\_\_\_ no friends.

## XI. TINY TIM IS DEAD

The ghost showed Scrooge a very sad family. It \_\_\_ Cratchit's family. Tiny Tim \_\_\_ dead! He \_\_\_ in the cemetery with dead Scrooge.

## XII. SCROOGE WAKES UP ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ up very happy and with many new ideas. He \_\_\_\_\_ a big goose to Cratchit's house for Christmas. He \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money to the poor. He \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas dinner with his nephew who \_\_\_ very \_\_\_\_\_. The next day he \_\_\_\_\_ Cratchit extra money for his work. Tiny Tim did not die and Scrooge \_\_\_\_\_ a very good old man.

The End