

|  |  |   |  |   |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>A Christmas Carol Key Quotes</p>  | <p>‘Squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!’</p> <p>Dickens introduces the motif of hands to reveal Scrooge’s miserly ways<br/>This listing of adjectives suggest Scrooge is avaricious as he is literally and metaphorically holding onto money</p>   | <p>‘He edged his way along the crowded paths of life’</p> <p>This metaphor reveals Scrooge is misanthropic and he deliberately isolates himself from others and instead ‘edges his way’ through life</p>  | <p>‘Thin blue lip...red eye’</p> <p>Scrooge’s lip is ‘thin’ and ‘blue’ reveal he is unyielding and cold as a character<br/>The ‘red eye’ connotes evil and suggests he has an almost devilish appearance</p> | <p>‘His eye sparkled and his breath smoked’</p> <p>Dickens presents Fred as physically warm and charming to reflect his jovial character<br/>Fred is shown as the antithesis to the misanthropic and cold Scrooge</p> | <p>‘If they be like to die, they had better do and decrease the surplus population’</p> <p>Dickens uses Scrooge to reveal the prevalence of Malthusian ideas<br/>The use of economic language such as ‘decrease’ and ‘surplus’ suggests that Scrooge measures everything, even human life, in terms of monetary gain in the ‘ocean’ of life</p> | <p>‘I wear the chains I forged in life’</p> <p>Marley wears heavy chains which are emblematic of his sins in life as a result of his capitalist greed<br/>The verb ‘forged’ suggests they are his creation and his fate is a consequence of his actions</p> |
| <p>‘Wound about him like a tail’</p> <p>This likens Marley’s chains to the devil’s tail suggesting Marley’s greed has led to a hellish fate</p>  | <p>‘Mankind was my business...the dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!’</p> <p>Marley is a didactic character teaching Scrooge lessons about the disparity in society and inciting his change<br/>The metaphor comparing trade to a ‘drop of water’ suggests trade or business are insignificant</p> | <p>‘Bright clear jet of light’</p> <p>The light streaming of the ghost is symbolic of the illumination that will come when Scrooge learns from the mistakes of his past<br/>It is referred to as a jet to reveal the force and power of the ghost</p> | <p>‘Feeble fire’</p> <p>Fire is a motif revealing a character’s emotional warmth or lack thereof<br/>The fire in the school house is ‘feeble’ to reveal Scrooge’s loneliness and misery.</p>                 | <p>‘He laughed all over himself’</p> <p>This metaphor reveals Fezziwig’s happiness spilling out to others and shows his jovial personality</p>  | <p>‘Fuel heaped on the fire’</p> <p>Unlike Scrooge who gives his employee a fire that ‘looked like one coal’, Fezziwig generously heaps the fire on revealing his benevolence</p>   | <p>‘Shaking hands with every person’</p> <p>Hands are used to show Scrooge’s miserly and misanthropic nature as he ‘grasps’ money but Fezziwig is his antithesis as he shakes hands with ‘every person’ showing his joviality and kindness</p>              |
| <p>‘Might have called him father, and been a spring-time in the haggard winter of his life’</p> <p>The metaphor of ‘spring’ is used to show the vitality and joy family life<br/>This is particularly compared to Scrooge’s life which is now a ‘haggard winter’ which connotes misery, discomfort and death</p> | <p>‘He could not hide the light which streamed from under it in an unbroken flood upon the ground’</p> <p>The light streaming from the ghost is painful for Scrooge as it illuminates the mistakes of his past<br/>The metaphor comparing the light to a flood shows the force and power of the ghost and the memories it has shown to Scrooge</p>       | <p>‘Its sparkling eye, its open hand’</p> <p>‘Sparkling’ associates the ghost with the magic of Christmas<br/>Its open hand symbolises the ghost’s generosity</p>   | <p>‘Horn of plenty’</p> <p>This, along with the marketplace description, reveal the plentiful nature of food to dispel Malthusian ideas of food scarcity</p>   | <p>‘Withered little hand’</p> <p>The motif of hands is used to here reveal the vulnerability of Tiny Tim with ‘withered’ and ‘little’ showing fragility</p>   | <p>If these shadows remain unaltered, the child will die’</p> <p>The conditional sentence shows the impact Scrooge could have in changing Tiny Tim’s outcome<br/>It also reveals the dire situation of impoverished children like Tiny Tim and the responsibility that s society’s</p>  | <p>‘The Cratchit family drew round the hearth’</p> <p>The motif of fire is used to show the warmth and joviality of the Cratchit family despite their poverty</p>   |

|   |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>‘Hear the pudding singing in the copper’</p> <p>Pathetic fallacy is used to reveal the happiness and excitement of the family – even the objects are imbued with joy</p>   | <p>‘They are Man’s and they cling to me, appealing from their fathers.’</p> <p>At the end of Stave 3, the Christmas Spirit can no longer conceal the reality of Victorian England and reveals two poor children – Ignorance and Want and asks Scrooge, and society, to face this as he says they are ‘man’s’</p> <p>Dickens shows the desperation of these children through ‘cling’ and highlights the plight of the poor man’s child as they appeal from their ‘fathers’</p> | <p>‘Beware them both...but most of all beware this boy for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.’</p> <p>Dickens bleak warning reveals the consequences of a lack of education or Ignorance</p> <p>Dickens was passionate about educating the poor believing ignorance perpetuated the cycle of poverty</p>                  | <p>‘The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached’</p> <p>This spirit is referred to as a phantom to show the fear it instils</p> <p>The listing of adverbs builds an ominous atmosphere</p> <p>The silence makes the ghost forbidding but also shows Scrooge’s change already as he now articulates what he is seeing</p> | <p>‘A great fat man with a monstrous chin.’</p> <p>The adjectives ‘fat’ and ‘monstrous’ reveal the ugliness of the businessmen</p> <p>The businessmen are physically ugly to represent their moral repugnance</p> | <p>‘Reeked with crime and filth and misery’</p> <p>In the vision of the future, the poor areas of London are overwhelmed with ‘crime, filth and misery’</p> <p>This is bleaker and more destitute than the present to emphasise the horrific poverty that awaits if society does not change</p> | <p>‘Avarice, hard-dealing, griping cares. They have brought him to a rich end.’</p> <p>Scrooge realises that avarice leads to loneliness and that true ‘richness’ comes from people not money</p>   |
| <p>‘Neglected grave’</p> <p>Scrooge’s grave is ‘neglected’ to reinforce that his greed has not benefitted him</p> <p>This is juxtaposed with Tiny Tim’s grave somewhere ‘green’ to show that his death, despite his poverty, will be mourned much more than Scrooge’s</p> | <p>‘Oh tell me I sponge away the writing on this stone!’</p> <p>Scrooge pleads with the ghost for the chance of redemption</p> <p>He wants to metaphorically ‘sponge away’ the future that has been shown to him</p>  | <p>‘As light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school boy’</p> <p>These similes show Scrooge’s redemption</p> <p>Scrooge is now ‘light’ and no longer faces the heavy burden of Marley’s chains</p> <p>The devilish imagery is now replaced with angelic imagery</p> <p>He is also compared to a school boy to show he is now reborn</p> | <p>‘Bright, clear jovial day’</p> <p>Pathetic fallacy is used to demonstrate Scrooge’s change. The fog of Stave 1 is replaced with ‘bright, clear, jovial’ weather to demonstrate Scrooge’s new personality</p>   | <p>‘He regarded everyone with a delighted smile’</p> <p>Scrooge no longer ‘edges his way along the crowded paths of life’ but instead is congenial recognising the value of ‘mankind’</p>                         | <p>‘Shaking hands with him’ (charity worker)</p> <p>The motif of hands shows Scrooge’s transformation from a ‘grasping’ miser to a congenial man</p> <p>His cyclical interaction with the charity workers also reveals his changed attitudes towards the poor</p>                               | <p>‘Make up the fires. Buy another coal scuttle before you dot another i’</p> <p>The motif of fire is used to indicate Scrooge’s redemption and that he now prioritises Bob Cratchit’s welfare over business</p> <p>He no longer hoards coal and instead insists Bob should ‘Make up the fires’ he is now sharing both literal and emotional warmth</p> |