

Scrooge (Stave 1) - Cheatsheet

3 Key Facts

1. Scrooge is immediately presented as an unpleasant character who is completely obsessed with making money.
2. We quickly learn that Scrooge lives his life alone – no one even greets him in the street and beggars don't even ask him for help.
3. We see how badly Scrooge treats his employee, Bob Cratchit, and his upper-class ignorance when two gentlemen arrive to ask about giving money to charity.

Key Quotations

"Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone"	Scrooge begins the story as a money-grabbing, selfish old man. His only concern is making money.
"Let me hear another sound from you," said Scrooge, "and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation"	Scrooge uses his powerful position as Cratchit's employer to intimidate him into behaving how he wants. He abuses his upper-class role to threaten Cratchit.
"Are there no prisons?... Are there no workhouses?"	In Scrooge's eyes, the poor don't need help – he feels that no one should worry about the poor because there are prisons and workhouses for them.

The Most Important Questions

Why does Scrooge think Christmas is a waste of time?	Scrooge believes that Christmas is a waste of time because it never does anyone any "good", which means financial gain.
What does Scrooge begrudgingly allow Bob Cratchit to do?	Scrooge allows Bob Cratchit to take the day off for Christmas Day - but he grumbles about doing it.
Who does Scrooge represent in Stave 1?	Scrooge represents the attitudes of the rich in Victorian England.
Which ghost appears to Scrooge in Stave 1?	The ghost of Jacob Marley.
What ghostly vision does Scrooge see at the end of Stave 1?	The ghosts of hundreds of people float through London, chained down by their bad deeds.



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