Novel Study

Characters

Task: while we read through the story, you will be completing a character trait web for Scrooge. This web will serve as notes to help you write your essay about how Scrooge changes throughout the story.

The **protagonist**, or main character, is the story's central character, who comes into conflict with an opposing major character or force (called the **antagonist**).

In *A Christmas Carol*, which characters fit these parts?

Protagonist: _____

Antagonists: (there are three)   _____

_____

_____

Character types

Round	Dynamic	Flat	Static
• A major character • Very well-developed, seem like real people • Has a complex personality	• A character who encounters conflict and is changed by it • Usually a major character	• A character who has one kind of personality trait	• A character who does not change over time

TASK: Use the **terms above** to describe the following characters (some may fit more than one):

Character	Character type (above)	Adjectives used to describe them
Scrooge		(add to your web instead of here)
Fred (Scrooge's nephew)		
Fan (Scrooge's younger sister)		
Fezziwig		

Symbolism: Each of the ghosts that visit Scrooge represents certain ideas. What do each of the three ghosts represent? (Think of what they show him, or try to teach him).

➤   The Ghost of Christmas Past represents _____, because

_____

_____

➤   The Ghost of Christmas Present represents _____, because

_____

_____

➤   The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come represents _____, because

_____

_____

Setting & Atmosphere

1.   Where, and in what time period (year) does this story take place?

The **mood** of a story evokes certain feelings in the reader through the words and descriptions that is uses. Usually, mood is referred to as the **atmosphere** of the story, as it creates an emotional situation that surrounds the readers. The mood can be developed through the setting, tone, and word choice.

2.   What kind of mood or atmosphere is established in the beginning of *A Christmas Carol*? (Use some words or quotes directly from the story.)

3. How does the mood/atmosphere at the beginning of the story relate to Scrooge's character traits/personality?

4. How do the mood and atmosphere change at the end of the story? Do these parallel any changes in Scrooge?

Literary Devices

Dickens uses many literary devices to enhance our understanding of the story. Find examples of literary devices from the story to complete the chart below.

Simile (comparing two things using "like" or "as")

- o Example #1 (page #, quotation, and what it means)

- o Example #2 (page #, quotation, and what it means)

Personification (giving human traits to an object)

- o   Example #1 (page #, quotation)

- o   Example #2 (page #, quotation)

Imagery (descriptive language that helps us to picture it in our mind)

- o   Example #1 (page #, quotation)

- o   Example #2 (page #, quotation)

Onomatopoeia (words that sound similar to the sound they represent e.g. boom)

- o   Example #1 (page #, quotation)

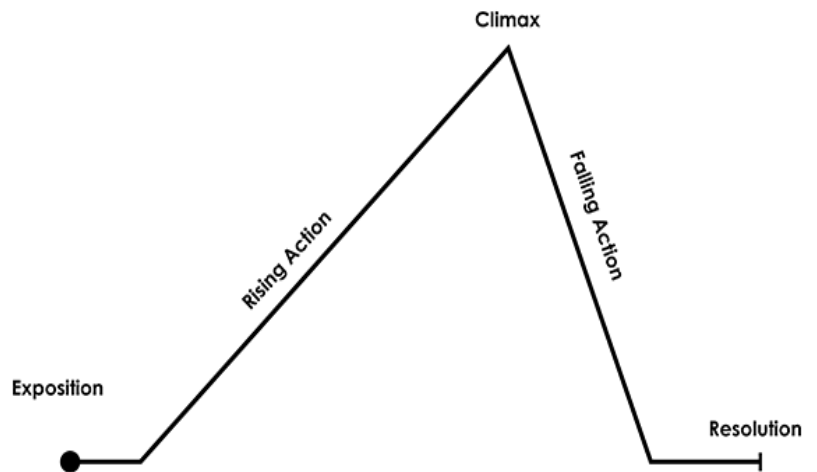- o   Example #2 (page #, quotation)

Plot

Exposition/Introduction: beginning of story, where characters, setting, and main problem are introduced.

Rising Action: a series of events build up to the conflict. Excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.

Climax: the turning point of the story. A moment of interest and emotion, where the reader wonders what will happen next.

Falling Action: events and complications start to be resolved.

Resolution/Conclusion: end of the story.

Climax

Rising Action

Falling Action

Exposition

Resolution

Plot Assignment:

Option A:

Use a blank plot diagram, and label it with descriptions of the plot elements. For each plot element, write a few sentences describing which part of the story fits there.

Comprehension Questions

Stave One: Marley's Ghost

1. Compare Scrooge's personality and views about Christmas with those of his nephew, Fred.

Scrooge	Fred
Personality traits:	Personality Traits:
Views of Christmas:	Views of Christmas:

2. What are Scrooge's views of the poor? Where does he think they belong? (pg.4)

3. What message does Marley bring to Scrooge? (pg.10)

Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits

1. Why does Scrooge's girlfriend, Belle, break up with him? (pg.18-19)

2. What are some regrets (things he would have liked to do) that Scrooge shares with us on pg.19?

Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spirits

1. How is the Cratchit family described? (pg.27) Which part of society do they represent?

2. How is the holiday of Christmas portrayed in this section? Do you think this is similar to how Christmas is celebrated here today?

Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits

1. How do the men that knew Scrooge react to his death? (pg.34)

2. Upon seeing his grave, what does Scrooge vow to do? (pg.41)

Stave Five: The End of It

1. What are some of Scrooge's actions that show he is now a changed man?

Themes

The theme of a story is its underlying message or "big idea" that the author is trying to convey.

Assignment: Choose ONE of the themes below, and write a paragraph (on a separate piece of paper) describing some things from the story that show that theme.

A) **The meaning of Christmas and of life:** what is really important?

B) **Actions & Consequences:** the lasting consequences that result from our actions (think of Marley's actions and consequences, as well as Scrooge's).

C) **The Power of One:** the power that one person has to change their community or the world (think of how certain characters impact those around them- good or bad)

D) **Rebirth:** it is never too late to change (think of the changes that Scrooge goes through)

Criteria

Introduction contains (4 marks)

- ☐ Main idea (thesis)
- ☐ Name of novel
- ☐ Author
- ☐ Theme

Body contains (6 marks)

- ☐ At least two quotations
- ☐ Explanation of how the quotations back up the theme

Conclusion (1 mark)

- ☐ Restates your introduction

Writing (2 marks)

- ☐ Proper paragraph format
- ☐ Complete sentences
- ☐ Spelling, grammar, etc.

Examples

In his novel *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens uses the contrasting actions and attitudes of the characters to reveal the theme of the power that one person has to change their community or the world.

After Scrooge had seen the hardships of Bob Cratchit's family and vowed to change his ways, Scrooge told Bob, "I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family." He has realized that he can use his money for good, and help others in his community.

At the beginning of the novel, Scrooge had the power, as we all do, to make a positive difference in others' lives; instead he chose to be miserable and selfish. By the end of the novel, he changed, and was able to have a more positive influence on others.