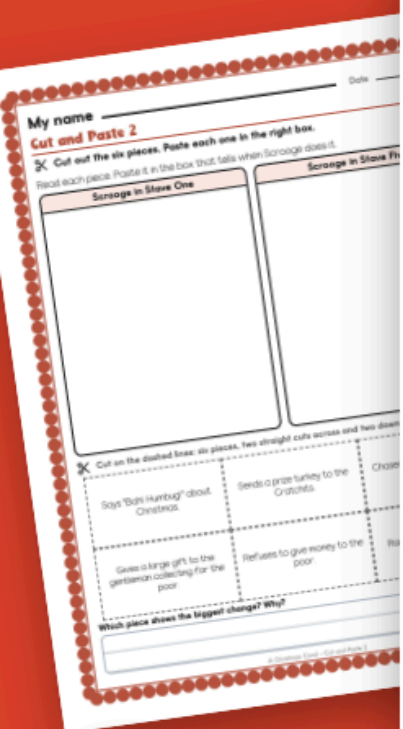
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Dickens Activities - Grades 7-9

30 STUDENT PAGES









Bright Path Sped

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- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

About the book

This resource is not affiliated with or endorsed by any publisher of A Christmas Carol. The book is not included: students need any copy of the story, in print or on a screen. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (1843) is in the public domain, and the short quotations on these pages are from that text.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 3 lines; a Think Deeper answer gets 5; the organizer boxes get 2 or 3; the essay page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** Agree or disagree, cold or warm: click or mark one.
- **The stave.** Dickens called his chapters staves, like the verses of a carol. There are five, and every page names the one it is for.
- **The quote.** A short line from the book, in a box, with who says it. Students explain it in their own words.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Before You Read, Who's Who	2 pages, 13 items	Agree or disagree with five ideas; match eight people to who they are.
Stave organizer (five)	5 pages, 5 boxes each	Setting, characters, what happens, key quote and theme for one stave.
Stave words (five)	5 pages, 40 words	Read the word and the line it comes from; write the letter of the meaning.
Stave questions (five)	5 pages, 20 questions	Answer four questions per stave in full sentences, 3 lines each.
Think Deeper, Spirits, change chart	4 pages, 5 questions	One deeper question per stave (5 lines); a chart for each Spirit; a chart of Scrooge by stave.
Quotes, big ideas, sorts, essay	8 pages	Explain four quotes; find proof for four themes; sort by Spirit, by stave and in order; plan and write an essay paragraph.

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 35 to 41.

Open answers

Organizers, questions, charts, quotes, big ideas and the essay are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the story and gives its reason.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Any edition

The pages go by stave, not by page number, so any print or screen copy of the book works. The book is not included.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Read each idea. Check agree or disagree.

About the book

Charles Dickens wrote **A Christmas Carol** and published it in 1843. It is the story of a rich, cold man named Ebenezer Scrooge. Dickens did not use chapters. He used **staves**. A stave is a verse of a song, like a verse in a carol. There are five staves.

Try it. Do you agree or disagree? There is no wrong answer. You will check your thinking at the end of the book.

1. People can change, even late in life. ☐ **agree** ☐ **disagree**

2. Money is the best measure of a successful life. ☐ **agree** ☐ **disagree**

3. What happened to you in the past shapes who you are now. ☐ **agree** ☐ **disagree**

4. Everyone has a responsibility to help people who have less. ☐ **agree** ☐ **disagree**

5. Being alone is safer than risking being hurt. ☐ **agree** ☐ **disagree**

Pick one idea. Tell why you agree or disagree.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Stave One Words



Read the word and the line. Write the letter of its meaning.

1	**apparition** "The apparition walked backward from him"		A	extra; more than is needed
2	**surplus** "decrease the surplus population"		B	alone; keeping to oneself
3	**covetous** "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner"		C	patience; holding back from anger
4	**humbug** "Bah! Humbug!"		D	without money, food or shelter
5	**solitary** "secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster"		E	greedy; wanting what others have
6	**melancholy** "his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern"		F	nonsense; a fraud or trick
7	**forbearance** "charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence"		G	gloomy; sad
8	**destitute** "make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute"		H	a ghost; something strange that appears

Use two of the words in one sentence about this stave.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Stave Two Words



Read the word and the line. Write the letter of its meaning.

1	**reclamation** "Your reclamation, then. Take heed!"		A	something worshipped; here, money
2	**dowerless** "a dowerless girl"		B	a cap that puts out a candle
3	**extinguisher** "a great extinguisher for a cap"		C	being rescued or made good again
4	**jovial** "a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice"		D	cheerful and friendly
5	**apprentice** "I was apprenticed here!"		E	a person's well-being; health and happiness
6	**aspirations** "your nobler aspirations fall off one by one"		F	a person learning a trade from a master
7	**welfare** "Your welfare!"		G	without money brought to a marriage; poor
8	**idol** "Another idol has displaced me"		H	hopes; ambitions

Use two of the words in one sentence about this stave.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Stave Three Words



Read the word and the line. Write the letter of its meaning.

1	**incense** "sprinkled incense on their dinners from his torch"		A	not knowing; lack of education
2	**capacious** "its capacious breast was bare"		B	the person who provides or starts something
3	**vacant** "I see a vacant seat"		C	the case a sword is kept in
4	**Ignorance** "This boy is Ignorance."		D	hateful; disgusting
5	**odious** "an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man"		E	a sweet-smelling substance; here, a blessing
6	**scabbard** "an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it"		F	empty
7	**Founder** "Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast"		G	need; being without food, shelter or care
8	**Want** "This girl is Want."		H	roomy; very large

Use two of the words in one sentence about this stave.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Stave Four: The Last of the Spirits

Fill in each box. Use what you read in this stave.

In this stave

The silent Phantom: a death nobody mourns, Old Joe's shop, the Cratchits without Tim, a name on a grave.

Setting: Where and when does it happen?

Characters: Who is in it? What does each one do?

What happens: Tell the big event.

Key quote: Copy a short line that matters. Who says it?

Theme: What big idea does this stave show?

Scrooge in this stave: ☐ **cold** ☐ **changing** ☐ **warm**

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Stave Five: The End of It



Fill in each box. Use what you read in this stave.

In this stave

Christmas morning: the prize turkey, the gentleman's donation, dinner at Fred's, and Bob's raise.

Setting: Where and when does it happen?

Characters: Who is in it? What does each one do?

What happens: Tell the big event.

Key quote: Copy a short line that matters. Who says it?

Theme: What big idea does this stave show?

Scrooge in this stave: ☐ **cold** ☐ **changing** ☐ **warm**

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Think Deeper, Part A



Think hard. Use the story to prove your answer.

These are the hardest questions. Take your time and prove your answer with the story.

1. **Stave One.** Scrooge says Marley was "a good man of business." Marley answers, "Mankind was my business." What is the difference between the two meanings of the word, and why does Marley think Scrooge has it wrong?

2. **Stave Two.** Scrooge ends the stave by forcing the extinguisher cap down over the Spirit's light. Why does he do it? What is he trying to put out, and does it work?

3. **Stave Three.** At the end of the stave the Spirit shows two children, Ignorance and Want, hidden in his robe. Who are they, why does the Spirit say to beware the boy most, and what is Dickens asking readers to do?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ideas Shed

My name _____ Date _____

How Scrooge Changes



Show how Scrooge changes in each stave.

Scrooge is not the same man at the end. Show how he changes, one stave at a time.

Stave	What Scrooge says or does	What it shows about him
Stave One		
Stave Two		
Stave Three		
Stave Four		
Stave Five		

How is Scrooge different at the end? Use two staves as proof.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Quotes, Part B



Read each quote. Write what it means and why it matters.

Dickens chose these words with care. Say what they mean in your own words.

3

The Ghost of Christmas Present, the end of Stave Three.

"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both."

What does it mean?

Why does it matter to the story?

4

Scrooge, kneeling at his own grave, the end of Stave Four.

"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me."

What does it mean?

Why does it matter to the story?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Cut and Paste 2

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one in the right box.

Read each piece. Paste it in the box that tells when Scrooge does it.

Scrooge in Stave One	Scrooge in Stave Five

PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Says "Bah! Humbug!" about Christmas.	Sends a prize turkey to the Cratchits.	Chases away a boy singing a carol.
Gives a large gift to the gentleman collecting for the poor.	Refuses to give money to the poor.	Raises Bob Cratchit's pay.

Which piece shows the biggest change? Why?

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

My Essay

Write your essay paragraph. Use your plan.

Check your plan first: ☐ **claim** ☐ **evidence** ☐ **reasoning**

Write one paragraph. Start with your claim. Add your proof from the story. Then explain it. End with a sentence about the whole book.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Staves One and Two

Questions and word meanings. Samples, not the only right answers: accept any answer that uses a detail from the story and explains it. Quoted words are Dickens's own.

Stave One: Marley's Ghost page 9

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	How does Dickens describe Scrooge in …	Any two: a "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner"; "hard and sharp as flint"; "solitary as an oyster"; cold inside and out; nobody stops him in the street to say hello.
2	Three visitors come to the counting-house …	Fred: "Bah! Humbug!" and he refuses the dinner invitation. The gentlemen: "Are there no prisons?" and the poor who would rather die "had better do it, and decrease the surplus population." The caroler: Scrooge grabs a ruler and the boy runs.
3	What does Scrooge mean when he …	Humbug means nonsense or a fraud. To Scrooge, Christmas is a trick: a time for paying bills without money and for other people to ask him for things.
4	Describe Marley's chain. What is it …	Cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds and heavy steel purses. "I wear the chain I forged in life… I made it link by link." Every selfish act in life added a link. Scrooge's own chain, Marley says, was already as long seven Christmas Eves ago and has grown since.

Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits page 12

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	Describe the Ghost of Christmas Past. …	Like a child and an old man at once; white hair but no wrinkles; fresh holly in its hand and summer flowers on its dress; a bright jet of light from its head and a cap shaped like a candle extinguisher. The light is memory; child-and-old says the past is long ago and still fresh; holly and summer flowers are winter and summer together, all the Christmases past.
2	The Spirit shows Scrooge himself as …	Alone in a bare schoolroom at Christmas, reading, after the other boys have gone home; his only company is the characters in his books. He was lonely and left behind. Later his sister Fan comes to take him home and says their father is "so much kinder than he used to be."
3	At Fezziwig's party Scrooge says a …	His own clerk: "I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now." He sees that he treats Bob Cratchit the opposite of how Fezziwig treated him. It is the first sign that he can change.
4	Why does Belle end her engagement …	"Another idol has displaced me… a golden one." He now loves money more than her; he fears the world and poverty; he is not the man she agreed to marry, so she releases him.

Stave One words page 8

Word	Plain meaning
covetous	greedy; wanting what others have
solitary	alone; keeping to oneself
humbug	nonsense; a fraud or trick
destitute	without money, food or shelter
surplus	extra; more than is needed
melancholy	gloomy; sad
apparition	a ghost; something strange that appears
forbearance	patience; holding back from anger

Stave Two words page 11

Word	Plain meaning
reclamation	being rescued or made good again
welfare	a person's well-being; health and happiness
extinguisher	a cap that puts out a candle
apprentice	a person learning a trade from a master
jovial	cheerful and friendly
idol	something worshipped; here, money
dowerless	without money brought to a marriage; poor
aspirations	hopes; ambitions

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Stave Five and Think Deeper

Stave Five questions and words, then the five Think Deeper questions. Accept a reasoned answer that differs from the sample if it uses the story.

Stave Five: The End of It page 21

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	What are the first three things …	Any three, in order: laughs and cries and says he is "as light as a feather"; asks a boy in the street what day it is; sends him for the prize turkey (a shilling, half-a-crown if he is quick) and has it sent to Bob Cratchit's; shaves and dresses in his best; walks out greeting everyone.
2	How does Scrooge make up for …	He stops the gentleman in the street, whispers a donation so large the man can hardly speak, says "a great many back-payments are included in it," and asks him to come and see him.
3	What happens when Scrooge arrives at …	He asks, "Will you let me in, Fred?" Fred nearly shakes his arm off; Fred's wife and the guests welcome him; "Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happiness!"
4	Describe the trick Scrooge plays on …	Bob is eighteen and a half minutes late. Scrooge growls in his old voice that he will not stand it any longer, then: "I am about to raise your salary!" He promises to help the family, to talk it over that afternoon over a bowl of smoking bishop, and tells Bob to buy another coal-scuttle.

Stave Five words page 20

Word	Plain meaning
amends	making up for a wrong
poulterer	a shop that sells poultry
shilling	a British coin of the time
munificence	great generosity
feign	to fake; to pretend
alteration	a change
abstinence	doing without something completely
infinitely	endlessly; far beyond

Think Deeper pages 22, 23

Stave	Starts with	A good answer includes
One	Scrooge says Marley was "a good man …	Scrooge means making money. Marley means people: "charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence." His trade was "a drop of water" in the ocean of his real business. Scrooge measures a life by profit; Marley learned too late to measure it by what he did for others, and warns that Scrooge still has a chance.
Two	Scrooge ends the stave by forcing the …	The memories hurt: Belle's happy family and her husband saying Scrooge is "quite alone in the world." He is trying to put out the light of memory and truth. It does not work: the light streams out from under the cap. You cannot extinguish the past.
Three	At the end of the stave the …	They are children of Mankind: the ignorance and poverty that society allows. On the boy's brow is written "Doom, unless the writing be erased": ignorance left alone ruins everyone. When Scrooge asks if they have no refuge, the Spirit throws back "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" Dickens asks readers to see the poor as people and to act.
Four	Scrooge asks, "Are these the shadows of …	He is asking whether the future is fixed or can be changed, and answers himself: "Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends… But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change." The promise means keeping all three lessons: remember his past (Fan, Belle), live generously now (the Cratchits, Fred), and act so the future is different (Tim lives).
Five	"Some people laughed to see the alteration …	"His own heart laughed," and that was enough; he knows laughter from good people is harmless next to what he saw. Evidence for lasting change: he became "as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man" as the city knew; Tiny Tim "did NOT die", it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well. Accept a reasoned no with evidence.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Ideas, Sorts, Essay

The big ideas, the three cut-and-paste mats and the essay plan.

Big Ideas page 28

#	Big idea	Proof can come from
1	Change and second chances	Stave Four: Scrooge promises to change. Stave Five: he sends the turkey and raises Bob's pay.
2	Greed and generosity	Stave One: Marley's chain, made of his own choices. Stave Five: Scrooge's large gift to the charity.
3	Poverty and responsibility	Stave Three: Ignorance and Want; the Cratchits are poor but happy, and Tiny Tim may die.
4	Memory and time	Stave Two: the lonely school boy and Belle. Stave Four: Scrooge promises to live in the Past, the Present and the Future.

Cut and Paste 1 page 29

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Scrooge sees his own neglected …	Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
r1 c2: Scrooge sees himself alone at …	Ghost of Christmas Past
r1 c3: Scrooge sees the Cratchits' Christmas …	Ghost of Christmas Present
r2 c1: Scrooge watches Fezziwig's party.	Ghost of Christmas Past
r2 c2: Businessmen talk about a death …	Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
r2 c3: Scrooge visits Fred's party.	Ghost of Christmas Present

Cut and Paste 2 page 30

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Says "Bah! Humbug!" about Christmas.	Scrooge in Stave One
r1 c2: Sends a prize turkey to …	Scrooge in Stave Five
r1 c3: Chases away a boy singing …	Scrooge in Stave One
r2 c1: Gives a large gift to …	Scrooge in Stave Five
r2 c2: Refuses to give money to …	Scrooge in Stave One
r2 c3: Raises Bob Cratchit's pay.	Scrooge in Stave Five

Cut and Paste 3 page 31

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Scrooge sees his own grave.	Fourth
r1 c2: Marley's Ghost warns Scrooge about …	First
r1 c3: Scrooge raises Bob Cratchit's pay.	Sixth
r2 c1: Scrooge watches the Cratchits' Christmas …	Third
r2 c2: Scrooge sends the prize turkey …	Fifth
r2 c3: Scrooge sees Belle end their …	Second

Sample essay plan for question 1 (page 32)

- **Claim:** Scrooge changes from a cold, greedy man into a generous one, and the three Spirits cause the change.
- **Evidence:** Stave One: he says "Bah! Humbug!" and refuses to give to the poor. Stave Three: he asks if Tiny Tim will live and feels ashamed when his own words come back to him. Stave Five: he sends the turkey, gives to the charity and raises Bob's pay.
- **Reasoning:** Each Spirit shows him something he did not want to see: his lonely past, the poor as real people, and his own grave. Seeing it changes how he acts, so the change is something he does, not only something he feels.
- For questions 2 and 3, accept any claim that is backed by proof from at least two staves.

Exit Tickets (page 34) and the sorts: what to look for

- **Exit tickets:** a fact about Scrooge, a Spirit and what it showed, a real question, and a word used correctly.
- **Cut and Paste 3:** the boxes are first to sixth, so the box is the event's place in the story. Read each strip left to right, top row first.

PREVIEW

A Christmas Carol Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 46.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
6	Who's Who	8			
8	Stave One Words	8			
9	Stave One Questions	4			
11	Stave Two Words	8			
12	Stave Two Questions	4			
14	Stave Three Words	8			
15	Stave Three Questions	4			
17	Stave Four Words	8			
18	Stave Four Questions	4			
20	Stave Five Words	8			
21	Stave Five Questions	4			
22	Think Deeper, Part A	3			
23	Think Deeper, Part B	2			
29	Cut and Paste 1	6			
30	Cut and Paste 2	6			
31	Cut and Paste 3	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. For the question pages, count an answer that uses a detail from the story. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. 91 items on 16 pages. Keys: pages 35 to 41. Filled example: page 46.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

A Christmas Carol at Home

Dear family, this week we are reading A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, the story of a cold, greedy man named Scrooge and three Spirits who visit him on Christmas Eve. These questions are for talking, not for a grade. Short answers are fine.

Student _____ Week of _____

Three things to talk about

- Ask your student to tell you what Scrooge is like at the start of the story and what he is like at the end, in their own words.
- Ask: "Which Spirit showed Scrooge the most?" There is no one right answer. Ask why.
- Ask: "What is something kind a person can do for someone who has less?"

My words from home

Something we talked about _____

A word from the story _____

A kind thing I can do _____

Words that may come up

Stave: Dickens's word for a chapter, like a verse of a song. **Humbug:** nonsense or a trick. **Spirit:** a ghost that visits Scrooge. **Theme:** a big idea in a story. **Generous:** happy to give.

Note from the teacher

Note from home

PREVIEW

Binder Cover

Slide this into the front of a binder. Type a name in the two fields or write it by hand. The divider tabs and a spine label to cut out are on the next page (page 49).

English Language Arts - Literature

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Staves, Words and Writing

Marley's Ghost | **The First Spirit** | **The Second Spirit**

The Last Spirit | **The End of It**

Teacher _____

Class or student _____

PREVIEW