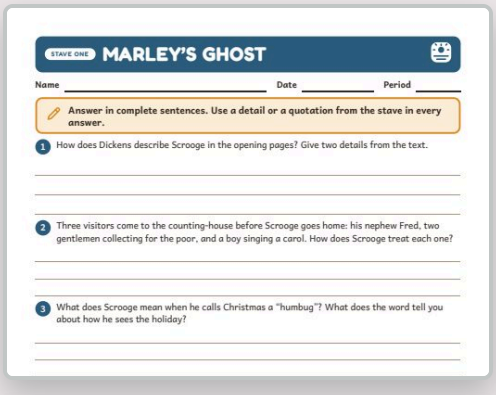
7TH–9TH · ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

NOVEL STUDY

A CHRISTMAS CAROL NOVEL STUDY

Dickens, stave by stave: vocabulary in context before each stave, five questions after it, a Scrooge tracker, quote analysis, themes, sentence starters and a planned essay. Answer keys, a reading log, a class grid and a family page. Type into the fields or print. PDF.


STAVE ONE MARLEY'S GHOST

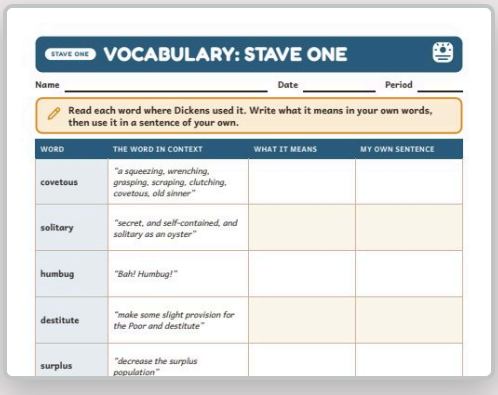
Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Answer in complete sentences. Use a detail or a quotation from the stave in every answer.

1 How does Dickens describe Scrooge in the opening pages? Give two details from the text.

2 Three visitors come to the counting-house before Scrooge goes home: his nephew Fred, two gentlemen collecting for the poor, and a boy singing a carol. How does Scrooge treat each one?

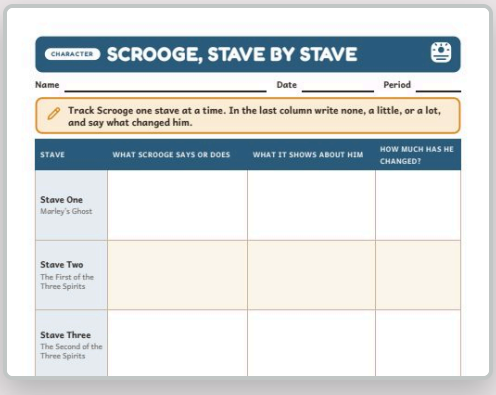
3 What does Scrooge mean when he calls Christmas a "humbug"? What does the word tell you about how he sees the holiday?


STAVE ONE VOCABULARY: STAVE ONE

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each word where Dickens used it. Write what it means in your own words, then use it in a sentence of your own.

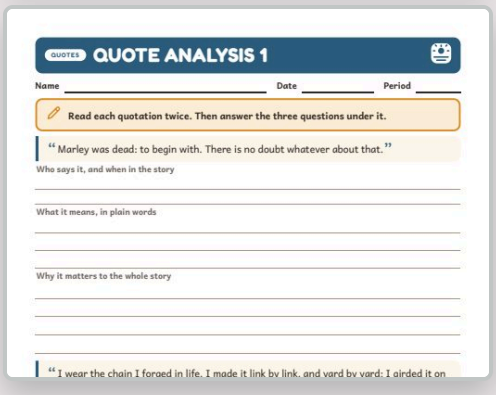
WORD	THE WORD IN CONTEXT	WHAT IT MEANS	MY OWN SENTENCE
covetous	*"a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner"*		
solitary	*"secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster"*		
humbug	*"Bah! Humbug!"*		
destitute	*"make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute"*		
surplus	*"decrease the surplus population"*		


CHARACTER SCROOGE, STAVE BY STAVE

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Track Scrooge one stave at a time. In the last column write none, a little, or a lot, and say what changed him.

STAVE	WHAT SCROOGE SAYS OR DOES	WHAT IT SHOWS ABOUT HIM	HOW MUCH HAS HE CHANGED?
Stave One Marley's Ghost			
Stave Two The First of the Three Spirits			
Stave Three The Second of the Three Spirits			


QUOTES QUOTE ANALYSIS 1

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each quotation twice. Then answer the three questions under it.

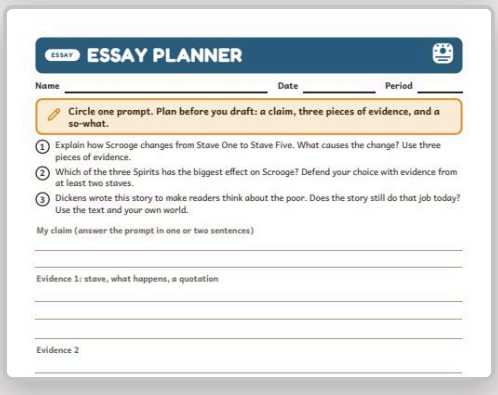
"Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that."

Who says it, and when in the story

What it means, in plain words

Why it matters to the whole story

"I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on


ESSAY ESSAY PLANNER

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Circle one prompt. Plan before you draft: a claim, three pieces of evidence, and a so-what.

1 Explain how Scrooge changes from Stave One to Stave Five. What causes the change? Use three pieces of evidence.

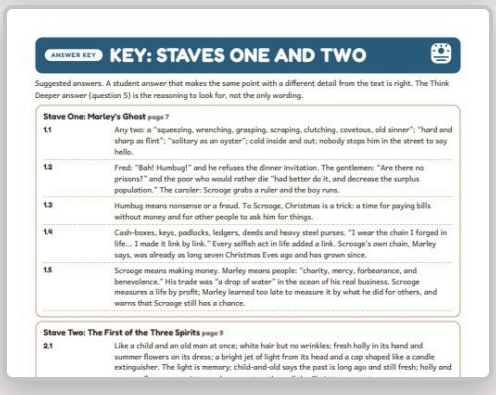
2 Which of the three Spirits has the biggest effect on Scrooge? Defend your choice with evidence from at least two staves.

3 Dickens wrote this story to make readers think about the poor. Does the story still do that job today? Use the text and your own world.

My claim (answer the prompt in one or two sentences)

Evidence 1: stave, what happens, a quotation

Evidence 2


ANSWER KEY KEY: STAVES ONE AND TWO

Suggested answers. A student answer that makes the same point with a different detail from the text is right. The Think Deeper answer (question 5) is the reasoning to look for, not the only wording.

Stave One: Marley's Ghost page 7

1.1 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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.

1.4 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.

1.5 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.

Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits page 9

2.1 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

36 Pages | 25 Questions | 40 Vocabulary Words | 5 Answer Keys

BRIGHT PATH SPED

START HERE

QUICK START

One complete novel study for Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, stave by stave, for grades 7 to 9: vocabulary in context before each stave, five questions after it, pages that track Scrooge and the people around him, close work with four quotations, four themes, and a planned essay. Every student page has ruled lines with room to write.

THREE STEPS

1. **Set the pace**
   Page 4 has a one-line synopsis of each stave, the study pages that go with it, and a blank for your own dates. Hand out Before You Read (page 5) before anyone opens the book.

2. **Read a stave, then two pages**
   Each stave has a vocabulary page (give it first or alongside the reading) and a question page: four short answers with 3 ruled lines and one Think Deeper with 5. Keys are pages 24 to 28.

3. **Pull it together**
   The Scrooge tracker (page 16) and the people page (17) grow as you read. After Stave Five: quote analysis (18, 19), themes (20), sentence starters (21) and the essay planner and draft (22, 23). Log it on page 29, roll the class up on 30, send page 32 home.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN…	USE…
Starting the book	Before You Read, page 5 · Reading Plan, page 4
Reading a stave	Vocabulary, pages 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 · Questions, pages 7, 9, 11, 13, 15
Watching Scrooge change	Scrooge tracker, page 16 · People, page 17
Working with the text closely	Quote Analysis, pages 18 and 19 · Themes, page 20
Writing the final response	Sentence Starters, page 21 · Planner, page 22 · Draft, page 23
Checking and recording	Keys, pages 24–28 · Log, page 29 · Class grid, page 30 · Example, page 31
Talking to families	Family page, page 32 · Phrase bank, page 33

Everything inside (36 pages)

- **19 student pages**: Before You Read, 5 question pages (25 questions, 5 of them Think Deeper), 5 vocabulary pages (40 words in context)
- **Scrooge tracker**, **7 characters** page, **4 quotations** on 2 analysis pages, **4 themes** page
- **13 sentence starters**, **3 essay prompts** with a planner and a lined draft page
- **5 answer keys**: every question, every quotation, every word, plus what to look for on the character and theme pages
- **1 reading log**, **1 class grid**, **1 filled example**, **1 family page**, **1 phrase bank**, **1 binder cover** and divider tabs

What is not in here

The book itself: any edition works; the text is in the public domain. No rubric or point value is printed on a student page; the log has a blank for your own wording.

BEFORE YOU READ

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Before you read: circle Agree or Disagree, then write one sentence about why. Come back after Stave Five and see if you still agree.

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**

STAVE ONE

VOCABULARY: STAVE ONE

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each word where Dickens used it. Write what it means in your own words, then use it in a sentence of your own.

WORD	THE WORD IN CONTEXT	WHAT IT MEANS	MY OWN SENTENCE
covetous	*"a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner"*		
solitary	*"secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster"*		
humbug	*"Bah! Humbug!"*		
destitute	*"make some slight provision for the Poor and destitute"*		
surplus	*"decrease the surplus population"*		
melancholy	*"his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern"*		
apparition	*"The apparition walked backward from him"*		
forbearance	*"charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence"*		

Pick one word. Where could you use it this week?

STAVE ONE

MARLEY'S GHOST

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Answer in complete sentences. Use a detail or a quotation from the stave in every answer.

1. How does Dickens describe Scrooge in the opening pages? Give two details from the text.

2. Three visitors come to the counting-house before Scrooge goes home: his nephew Fred, two gentlemen collecting for the poor, and a boy singing a carol. How does Scrooge treat each one?

3. What does Scrooge mean when he calls Christmas a "humbug"? What does the word tell you about how he sees the holiday?

4. Describe Marley's chain. What is it made of, and what does Marley say it means?

5. THINK DEEPER 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?

CHARACTER

SCROOGE, STAVE BY STAVE

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Track Scrooge one stave at a time. In the last column write none, a little, or a lot, and say what changed him.

STAVE	WHAT SCROOGE SAYS OR DOES	WHAT IT SHOWS ABOUT HIM	HOW MUCH HAS HE CHANGED?
Stave One Marley's Ghost			
Stave Two The First of the Three Spirits			
Stave Three The Second of the Three Spirits			
Stave Four The Last of the Spirits			
Stave Five The End of It			

QUOTES

QUOTE ANALYSIS 1

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each quotation twice. Then answer the three questions under it.

> “Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that.”

Who says it, and when in the story

What it means, in plain words

Why it matters to the whole story

> “I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it.”

Who says it, and when in the story

What it means, in plain words

Why it matters to the whole story

ESSAY PLANNER

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Circle one prompt. Plan before you draft: a claim, three pieces of evidence, and a so-what.

1. Explain how Scrooge changes from Stave One to Stave Five. What causes the change? Use three pieces of evidence.
2. Which of the three Spirits has the biggest effect on Scrooge? Defend your choice with evidence from at least two staves.
3. Dickens wrote this story to make readers think about the poor. Does the story still do that job today? Use the text and your own world.

My claim (answer the prompt in one or two sentences)

Evidence 1: stave, what happens, a quotation

Evidence 2

Evidence 3

So what? Why this evidence proves my claim

How I will end

ANSWER KEY

KEY: STAVES ONE AND TWO

Suggested answers. A student answer that makes the same point with a different detail from the text is right. The Think Deeper answer (question 5) is the reasoning to look for, not the only wording.

Stave One: Marley's Ghost page 7

1.1	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.
1.2	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.
1.3	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.
1.4	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.
1.5	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.

Stave Two: The First of the Three Spirits page 9

2.1	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.
2.2	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."
2.3	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.
2.4	"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.
2.5	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.

EXAMPLE DANI'S LOG

Dani R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank log is on page 29.

STUDENT	TEACHER	CLASS OR PERIOD
Dani R. (an invented student)	**Ms. Okafor (invented)**	**ELA, period 3**

PAGE	STUDENT PAGE	DATE	RIGHT / OF	NOTES
5	Before You Read	12/1	done	Disagreed with 2 and 5
6	Vocabulary, Stave One	12/2	8 / 8	–
7	Questions, Stave One	12/3	4 / 5	Q5: said what business means but not why Marley cares
8	Vocabulary, Stave Two	12/4	7 / 8	Mixed up idol and extinguisher
9	Questions, Stave Two	12/5	5 / 5	Quoted Belle on his own
10	Vocabulary, Stave Three	12/8	8 / 8	–
11	Questions, Stave Three	12/9	4 / 5	Q2: no detail from the text
12	Vocabulary, Stave Four	–	/ 8	–
13	Questions, Stave Four	–	/ 5	–
14	Vocabulary, Stave Five	–	/ 8	–
15	Questions, Stave Five	–	/ 5	–
16	Scrooge, Stave by Stave	–	–	–
17	The People Around Scrooge	–	–	–
18	Quote Analysis 1	–	–	–
19	Quote Analysis 2	–	–	–
20	Themes in the Story	–	–	–
21	Sentence Starters	–	–	–
22	Essay Planner	–	–	–
23	Essay Draft	–	–	–

How to read it

Dani R. has finished **7 of 19** student pages, through Stave Three. Questions: **13 of 15** right across 3 pages. Vocabulary: **23 of 24** words across 3 pages. 5 rows carry a note. Next up: Vocabulary, Stave Four (page 12). Every number here comes from the table above.

The family note this log would produce

"Dani has read three staves and finished 7 pages of the study. Written answers: 13 of 15 with a detail from the text. Vocabulary: 23 of 24. The next page is Vocabulary, Stave Four. Something to practice at home: pointing to the line in the book that backs up an answer." Every number is a row above.

THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Built for the teacher who wants a class to read a real book closely without writing every question the night before. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Everything inside, one more time

- **19 student pages**: Before You Read, 25 questions over 5 stave pages, 40 vocabulary words in context, a Scrooge tracker, 7 characters, 4 quotations, 4 themes, 13 sentence starters, an essay planner and draft.
- **5 answer keys**, **1 reading log**, **1 class grid**, **1 filled example**, **1 family page**, **1 phrase bank** (16 starters), **1 binder cover** and 6 divider tabs.

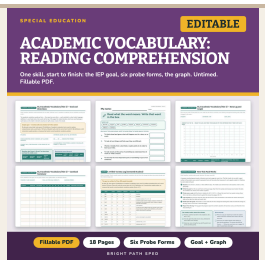
No real student anywhere in this file

The filled example on page 31 names "Dani R.," an invented student used only to show how the log fills in. Nothing in this resource describes a real student, and nothing in it is a clinical judgment or a claim about any student's grade level or rate of progress. Once you write in a real name, the log, class grid and family page (pages 29, 30 and 32) carry real information; keep them as secure as any other record.

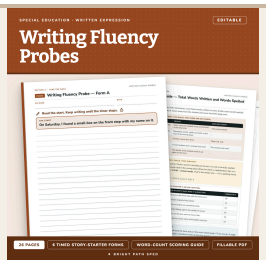
Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

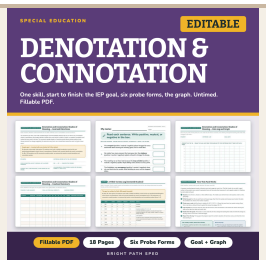
WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE



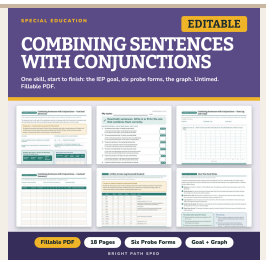
Reading Academic Vocabulary Probes
Short probes for the academic words that show up in every subject.



Writing Fluency Probes
Timed written-expression probes with a graph and a log.



Denotation and Connotation Probes
Shades of meaning: probe forms, a graph and a caseload page.



Combining Sentences Probes
Join two sentences with a conjunction; six forms and a graph.

More novel studies for grades 6 to 12 are added regularly. Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when they go up.

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