

A Wayne Scott • *LifeHouse Theater-On-The-Air* Production

A  
Christmas  
Carol

*Abridged from the original 1843 Text by Charles Dickens*

**Curriculum Guide**

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LIFE OF CHARLES DICKENS**

- 1812 - Born on February 7 to John and Elizabeth Dickens.
- 1824 – Dickens’ father John arrested and sent to the Marshalsea prison.
- 1836 - The first chapters of The Pickwick Papers are published. Marries Catherine Hogarth.
- 1837 - The first of his 10 children is born. The publication of Oliver Twist begins.
- 1838 - Publication of Nicholas Nickleby begins.
- 1842 - Charles and Catherine travel to America.
- 1843 - A Christmas Carol is published.
- 1848 - Dickens' sister, Fanny, dies. The Haunted Man, his last Christmas book is published.
- 1849 - The publication of David Copperfield begins.
- 1853 - Dickens gives his first public reading of one of his works.
- 1855 - Publication of Little Dorrit begins.
- 1857 - Hans Christian Anderson is entertained at Gad's Hill Place.
- 1859 - A Tale of Two Cities is published.
- 1860 - Publication of Great Expectations begins
- 1864 – One of Dickens’ sons dies in India.
- 1869 - Dickens is ordered by doctors to discontinue readings. Dickens begins writing The Mystery of Edwin Drood.
- 1870 - Dickens gives his final public reading. Publication of The Mystery of Edwin Drood begins. Charles Dickens dies at Gad's Hill Place on June 9.

## INTERESTING FACTS

- Eight stage adaptations of *A Christmas Carol* were in production within two months of the book's publication in 1843.
- It only took Dickens about six weeks to write *A Christmas Carol*.
- Dickens' beloved novella *A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843, with the intention of drawing readers' attention to the plight of England's poor.

## QUOTES BY CHARLES DICKENS

Remember to the last, that while there is life there is hope. -*Wretch of the Golden Mary*

There are dark shadows on the earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast. -*The Pickwick Papers*

There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.

## FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the key themes in *A Christmas Carol*?
2. Scrooge had the opportunity to see how his actions hurt people in his past and present. Do you have any people in your past that you would like the chance to see again or say something different to? Will this knowledge influence how you act in the future?
3. How would you characterize Bob Cratchit's attitude toward Scrooge? Scrooge's attitude toward Cratchit? How did these attitudes evolve throughout the story?

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what city does *A Christmas Carol* take place?
2. Who was Jacob Marley?
3. In addition to Marley, how many spirits visited Scrooge?
4. What was the name of Scrooge's sister?
5. Why did Belle end her engagement to Scrooge?
6. Name two places that the Spirit of the Present takes Scrooge.
7. Whose grave did the Spirit of the Future show to Scrooge?
8. Which of the Spirits did not speak to Scrooge?
9. How was Scrooge different on Christmas Day?
10. Who said "God bless us, every one!"

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what city does *A Christmas Carol* take place?  
*A: London*
2. Who was Jacob Marley?  
*A: Scrooge's dead business partner.*
3. In addition to Marley, how many spirits visited Scrooge?  
*A: Three – the Ghost of the Past, the Present, and the Future,*
4. What was the name of Scrooge's sister?  
*A: Fan*
5. Why did Belle end her engagement to Scrooge?  
*A: Because Scrooge loved money more than he loved her.*
6. Name two places that the Spirit of the Present takes Scrooge.  
*A: The Cratchit Home, and a Christmas party at his nephew's house.*
7. Whose grave did the Spirit of the Future show to Scrooge?  
*A: Scrooge's grave.*
8. Which of the Spirits did not speak to Scrooge?  
*A: The Spirit of the Future*
9. How was Scrooge different on Christmas Day?  
*A: He was overwhelmed with joy and excited by the chance to redeem himself.*
10. Who said "God bless us, every one!"  
*A: Tiny Tim*

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Charles Dickens, [http://www.perryweb.com/Dickens/life\\_events.shtml](http://www.perryweb.com/Dickens/life_events.shtml)

*A Christmas Carol*, <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/christmascarol/summary.html>