



# A SEUSSIFIED CHRISTMAS CAROL



  
TCT On Tour

SHOW COMPANION  
ACTIVITY PACKET

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## ABOUT THE SHOW

A whimsical **reinvention** of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets. With zoot fruited juices and binka bird geese, from Bed-Headed Fred to Timmy Loo-Hoo, this tale of glorious holiday cheer is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with -- if he ever had his way with the story..

### About the Original Author

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer, best known for his creating some of the world's most popular literary characters, and widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His novels and short stories, including "A Christmas Carol", "David Copperfield", "Oliver Twist", "Great Expectations", and "A Tale of Two Cities", are still read widely today. Born in Portsmouth, the young 15 year-old Dickens was forced to leave school to work in a factory when his father was jailed in a debtors' prison. In addition to his 15 novels, he also edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote five novellas, hundreds of short stories, and non-fiction articles, and regularly performed his writings in public. Dickens is praised for his realism, comedy, style of prose, unique characterizations, and social commentary. The term "Dickensian" is often used to describe poor social conditions, or comically **repulsive** characters, **reminiscent** of his creations.

### A Christmas Carol Overview

Although Charles' work has seen many **iterations** throughout time, the central theme of the story remains the same. New ways of retelling this story have kept a classic piece of literature alive, and well-loved. *A Christmas Carol* opens on a Christmas Eve in London. We meet the main character of the story, the mean and selfish, Ebenezer Scrooge. The tale follows him throughout the evening as he is visited by 4 spirits: Jacob Marley (his former co-worker), the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-come (future). The ghosts each show Scrooge snapshots of how he acted during each of the time periods, and how this has affected who he turned out to be. His future path is then revealed to him and what it might look like if he chooses to not change his ways. Scrooge wakes in his own bed on Christmas morning. Scrooge sees the world with a new soul and mission: to be kind and spread love to all he meets for as long as he lives. Scrooge's story has shown many people that it is *NEVER* too late to change, and **redemption** is available to all who want it!

# ACTIVITY PACKET

## VOCAB

**Reinvention** noun

1. the action or process through which something is changed so much that it appears to be entirely new.

**Repulsive** adjective

1. arousing intense distaste or disgust.

**Reminiscent** adjective

1. tending to remind one of something.

**Iteration** noun

1. the repetition of a process or utterance.

**Redemption** noun

1. the action of saving or being saved from error or evil.

### Read and Answer

Circle the answer that best fits.

- Charles Dickens was a famous American writer.  
A. TRUE  
B. FALSE
- Scrooge is visited by how many spirits on Christmas Eve?  
A. 3  
B. 5  
C. 4  
D. 1
- At what age did Charles Dickens have to drop out of school?  
A. 13  
B. 12  
C. 17  
D. 15
- When we first meet Scrooge in the story, he is a kind and generous person.  
A. TRUE  
B. FALSE

# ACTIVITY PACKET

## Reading Comprehension

### Activity #1

Using the first word given below –make a list of all the words that rhyme with it!

TEST

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AGE

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MASK

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### Activity #2

The Rhyme Hat

With help from you teacher and class, everyone writes down one word on a small piece of paper that the teacher will collect and place in a hat. Then, your teacher will pass the hat around the classroom one student at a time. When you receive the hat, you will choose one piece of paper, open it up, read the word written down, and then must come up with one word that rhymes with it to say out loud. Once a word has been said, the student will pass the hat to the next person of their choice to pick a piece of paper out to rhyme. Do not put your paper back into the hat once you've picked it.

### Word Jumble

Unscramble the letters below to find the word.

EOROSGC \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

FISSELH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

MYREH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

GANECH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

# ACTIVITY PACKET

## Word Search

Look in every direction to find all the hidden words.

EVE - PAST - FUTURE - PRESENT - GREEDY - EVIL - CHARLES - SEUSS - LONDON - KIND

C	W	W	I	P	M	I	N	Z	O	Y	B	D	U	W
F	V	Z	P	N	P	A	S	T	V	C	R	Z	K	V
Q	M	F	D	F	S	J	U	W	L	X	R	K	L	F
Q	L	E	C	U	H	P	C	H	R	I	K	H	Z	U
Y	U	B	Y	M	Z	G	X	Y	T	N	O	K	X	T
G	O	B	A	E	S	E	U	S	S	G	R	A	H	U
H	R	O	T	V	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	Q	G	R
K	P	E	R	I	W	W	O	Z	S	V	T	Z	E	E
I	M	F	E	L	R	Z	F	C	Y	Y	U	T	F	V
N	X	C	I	D	L	R	K	N	H	B	W	J	K	A
D	L	E	O	Y	Y	B	L	T	G	A	G	H	C	U
K	O	P	L	O	N	D	O	N	Z	O	R	U	K	T
A	Y	V	E	B	E	I	F	I	J	K	M	L	J	I
L	N	O	G	R	K	V	O	E	I	C	I	G	E	Q
S	D	M	K	Y	Z	Z	E	U	D	W	W	X	A	S



# ACTIVITY PACKET

## What Strengths Will You Use Today?

Character Strengths are the positive parts of our personality that impact how we think, feel and behave. Scientists have done research across the world and found there are 24 strengths that live in each of us. We will identify the strengths that show up in each main character and learn how to apply those strengths in our own lives.

**Main Character:** Scrooge

**Top Character Strength:** Humility

Additional supporting strengths demonstrated in the play: Prudence, Honesty, Forgiveness, Gratitude, Perspective

## It's Okay to Be Wrong Activity

**CASEL Competency:** Social Awareness ~ Recognizing situational demands and opportunities

Think of a time you did something you weren't proud of. How did this decision hurt someone else? Write down your thoughts.

**What is Humility?** I let my accomplishments speak for themselves.

**Why it Matters:** Humble people understand themselves. They know their strengths and their weaknesses. Humble people are content knowing that they have room for growth, and strive for that growth without making themselves the center of attention.

**When to Use it:** Use Humility to own up to mistakes and to avoid bragging about accomplishments in a way that makes other people feel bad about themselves. Scrooge, for example, strengthened his Humility by the end of the story when he owned up to his pessimism and shifted his attitude towards others.

To practice using our strength of Humility, let's each think about a time that we've been wrong.

1. Write out the statement: "I was wrong about..." and complete the sentence.
2. Sit with that statement for a few moments and notice how it feels to be wrong.
3. Now, with your strength of Humility, finish the reflection: "I was wrong about...and from that moment I have learned that..."
4. Again, sit with this statement for a few moments and notice how it feels to use Humility.

We can balance our Humility with the strength of Forgiveness. Forgiving ourselves for hurting others allows us to more confidently learn and grow.

# ANSWER KEY

## Read and Answer

- 1.B
- 2.C
- 3.D
- 4.B

## Word Jumble

- SCROOGE  
SELFISH  
RHYME  
CHANGE



## Standards

- RL.1.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- RL.2.4 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.
- RL.2.9 Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors or from different cultures
- RL.1. 10 With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1. Activate prior knowledge and draw on previous experiences in order to make text-to-self or text-totext connections and comparisons.