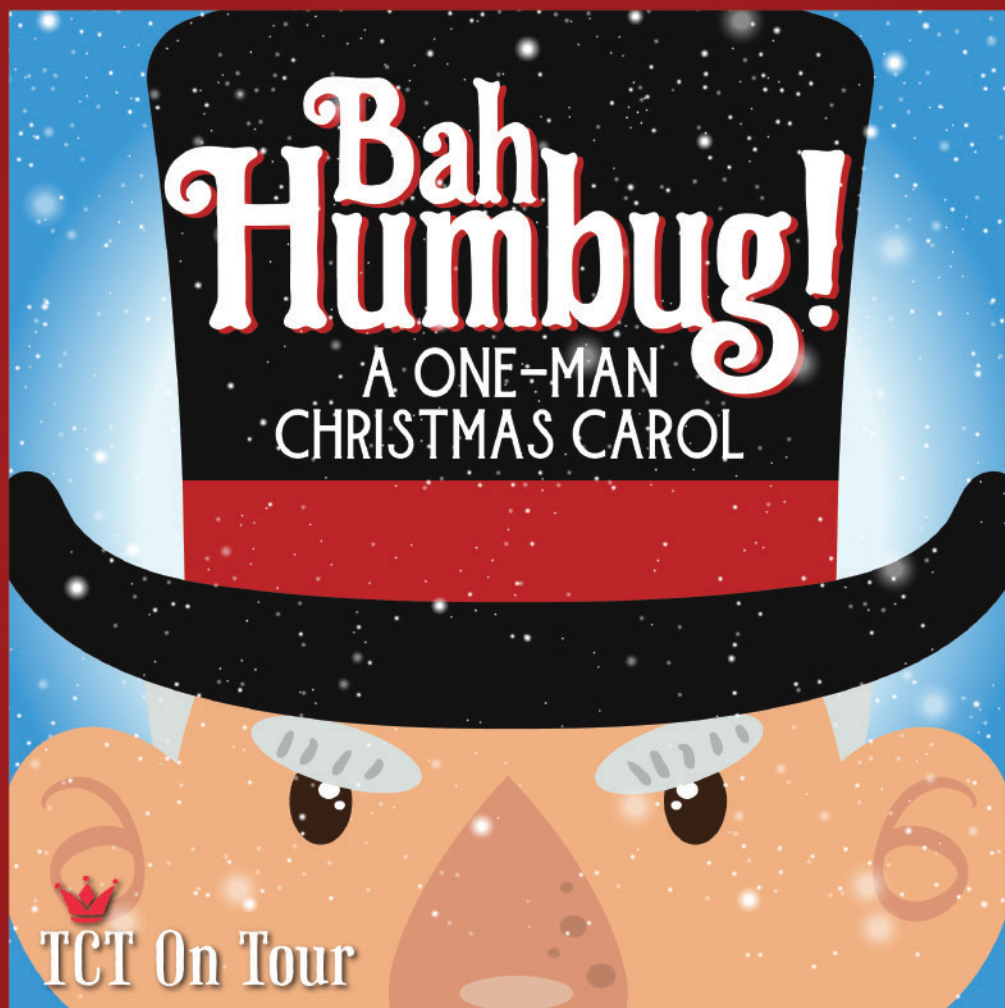




ABOUT THE SHOW

Study Guide

It's Charles Dickens famous holiday classic, with an amazing twist... one actor plays ALL the roles! In this story, you'll experience all your favorite characters from *A Christmas Carol* in this imaginative, and magical re-telling of the powerful holiday tale of hope and compassion. Ebenezer Scrooge is a businessman who thinks only of making money. For him, Christmas is, in his own words, a humbug. It has been seven years since his friend and partner, Jacob Marley, died. On Christmas Eve, Marley's ghost appears to warn Scrooge to change his ways and tells him he is to be visited during the night by three spirits.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer, best known for creating some of the world's most popular literary characters, and is 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 Dickens was forced to leave school at 12 years old to work in a boot 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. A lesser-known fact about Charles Dickens was his fascination and love for the **paranormal**. His obsession is what fueled him to join the real-life club called "The Ghost Club" that tracked down phantoms and ghosts to try and have encounters with the supernatural. His love for ghosts is made evident by his use of all the various types of ghosts in *A Christmas Carol*.

It is noted that Dickens was, at times, extremely wordy in description and detail in his writings. This is mainly because during the time he was writing, authors were sometimes paid by the word instead of by the fully finished piece. So, the more words you wrote, the more money you'd receive once finished. Regardless of this fact, Dickens is praised for his realism, comedy, style of prose, unique characterizations, and social commentary. His descriptive writing has accurately illustrated life during this period to give readers a realistic worldview. Not only does it make his characters and settings three dimensional but allows the reader to gain a fuller understanding of each character and their thoughts. The term "Dickensian" is often used to describe poor social conditions, or comically **repulsive** characters, **reminiscent** of his creations.

ACTIVITY PACKET

Vocabulary from the Reading

1. Debtors' Prison – a facility where people are locked up because they cannot pay money they owe.
2. Novellas – entry in narrative prose fiction that is longer than a short story but shorter than a full-length novel.
3. Paranormal – refers to any event or phenomenon that falls outside the scope of normal scientific understanding and cannot be explained by conventional natural laws.
4. Repulsive – causing strong dislike, disgust, or a desire to move away from something.
5. Reminiscent – means tending to remind you of something else or showing that you are thinking about the past.

Questions from the Reading

Answer the below questions based off the reading.

1. How many actors perform in TCT's Bah Humbug?
A. 4
B. 3
C. 2
D. 1
2. What type of factory did Charles Dickens work in when he dropped out of school?
A. Book Factory
B. Bread and Bakery Factory
C. Boot Factory
D. Steel Factory
3. In the story of A Christmas Carol, how many years ago did Scrooge's business partner die?
A. 7 years
B. 5 years
C. 3 years
D. 17 years
4. Scrooge is warned by Marley that he'd be visited by 4 ghosts on Christmas Eve.
A. True
B. False
5. The term "Dickensian" is often used to describe poor social conditions, or comically repulsive characters, reminiscent of his creations.
A. True
B. False

ACTIVITY PACKET

ALTRUISM VS. SELFISHNESS

The story charts Scrooge's evolution from selfish miser to generous neighbor.

FATE (PRE-DETERMINED) VS. DESTINY (CHOICE)

The story raises the question of whether the outcome of Scrooge's life has already been determined or is within his power to change.

ACTIVITY BY GRADE

Grades K - 2

In the story, Scrooge is visited by three spirits, embodying three aspects of Christmas: Past, Present, and Future. Have students draw pictures of these three aspects of their own holiday experiences: One drawing dedicated to a vivid memory from their past; one drawing dedicated to something important from their present; and one drawing dedicated to forecasting how a future holiday might look/feel. Have students share their drawings with their classmates. Discuss the differences, and similarities, between their drawings.

Grades 3 – 6

In the story, Scrooge learns the value of generosity towards others. Have your students keep gratitude journals. The simple act of writing down those things for which they are grateful can have a profound effect. Robert A. Emmons, PhD, recognized as the world's leading scientific expert on gratitude psychology, explains why: "Writing...allows you to see the meaning of events going on around you and create meaning in your own life." Through acknowledgment and thankfulness for the good in their lives, students who keep gratitude journals will be more conscious of generosity in their everyday lives. At the end of the predetermined journaling period (week/month/etc.), students share what they were grateful for with their classmates. Discuss whether the act of journaling their gratitude made them more aware of the generosity they give and receive daily.

Grades 7 – 12

In the story, Scrooge is visited by three spirits, embodying three aspects of Christmas: Past, Present, and Future. Have students journal about these three aspects of their own holiday experiences: One entry dedicated to a vivid memory from their past; one entry dedicated to something important from their present; and one entry dedicated to forecasting how a future holiday might look/feel. At the end of the predetermined journaling period (three days), have students share their journal entries with their classmates. Discuss the differences, and similarities, between their journal entries.

ACTIVITY PACKET

Word Search

Look forward, backward and diagonally for the hidden words.

**Dickensian - Ghost - Marley - Portsmouth - Bah humbug - Past
Present - Future - Supernatural - Novella**

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

ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Questions from the Reading

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A



Standards

RI.1.1: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

RL.3.1: Demonstrate understanding of a literary text (story, drama, or poem).