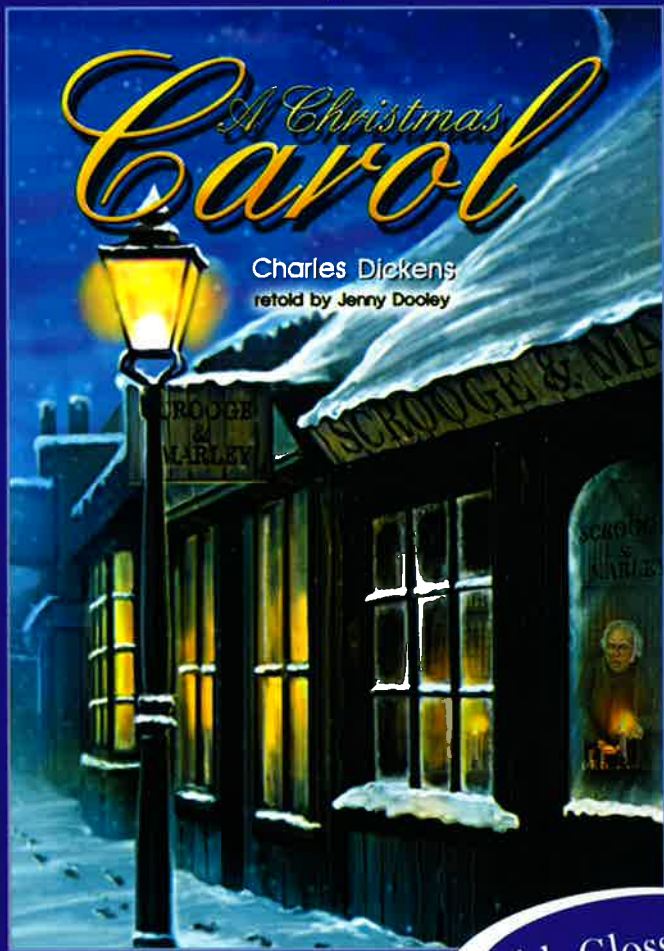


# Activity Book

## *A Christmas* **Carol**

Charles Dickens  
retold by Jenny Dooley



with Glossary



Express Publishing

# Introductory Lesson

For teachers' inspection ONLY

## Before reading:

- 1 Look at the front cover of the book. In pairs, try to answer the following questions:
- What can you see in the picture?
  - What period of time do you think the story is set in?
  - What time of year do you think it is?
  - What time of the day is it? Morning or night?
  - Can you see the old man? Where is he? Who do you think he is?
  - What do you think the old man is doing there so late?

- 2 Try and guess how the following are connected to the story.



ghost



bells



poor people



money



singing Christmas carols

- 3 Read the information about Charles Dickens and answer the questions that follow.



### Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England, on February 7th 1812 and spent his childhood in London and Kent. He started school when he was nine years old, but had to stop soon afterwards because his father owed money and was sent to prison.

This meant that Dickens had to go to work to support himself. His first job was in a shoe polish factory and he used this experience when he wrote his novels. In 1827, he started to work as a legal clerk. He learned shorthand\*, which he later used when he became a reporter. He married Catherine Hogarth in 1836. Dicken's first successful novel, "The Pickwick Papers", was published a year later, and "A Christmas Carol" was published in December 1843.

Throughout his adult life, Dickens was concerned for the poor people of England and in his later life, he gave a number of talks and lectures on social conditions in an effort to improve their lives. He died on June 9th 1870, and is buried in Westminster Abbey, London.

\* shorthand: a quick way of writing using signs instead of words or syllables.

- Where was Charles Dickens born?
- How old was he when he started school?
- Why did he have to start work when he was still a child?
- What jobs did Dickens have before he started writing novels?
- When were the Pickwick Papers published?
- What interested Dickens all his life?
- Where is Charles Dickens buried?

## The Knocker

### I. Listening



Listen to the recording and tick (✓) the correct answer.

- |   |                                      |   |                       |                          |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | The story began on                   | A | Christmas Eve.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | B | Christmas Day.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | C | Christmas Carol.      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | The name on the shop was             | A | Scrooge and Ebenezer. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | B | Scrooge and Partner.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | C | Scrooge and Marley.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Scrooge's nephew was called          | A | Bob.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | B | Fred.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | C | Jacob.                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | A young boy wanted to sing Christmas | A | dinner.               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | B | carols.               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | C | candles.              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | The knocker looked like a            | A | humbug.               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | B | key.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|   |                                      | C | ball.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### II. Comprehension questions

- Why did Scrooge have such a small fire in the office?
- Who came to visit Scrooge at work?

- 3 What would Scrooge do with Christmas Day if he could?
- 4 What did Fred want Scrooge to do?
- 5 What did the man in the black suit want?
- 6 What did Scrooge say about the poor?
- 7 What did Scrooge say to the boy who wanted to sing carols?
- 8 What did Scrooge hear on his way home?
- 9 Why was it difficult for Scrooge to see?
- 10 Why was Scrooge afraid when he looked at his door?

### III. Topics for discussion

- 1 Do you think that having money makes somebody happy?
- 2 What do you think it would be like to work for someone like Scrooge?
- 3 Do you ever give money or clothes to the poor?
- 4 Have you ever had a strange experience? Tell the class about it.

### IV. Activities

A i) Choose from the box the words which best describe Scrooge and Fred.

kind	old	young	friendly	angry
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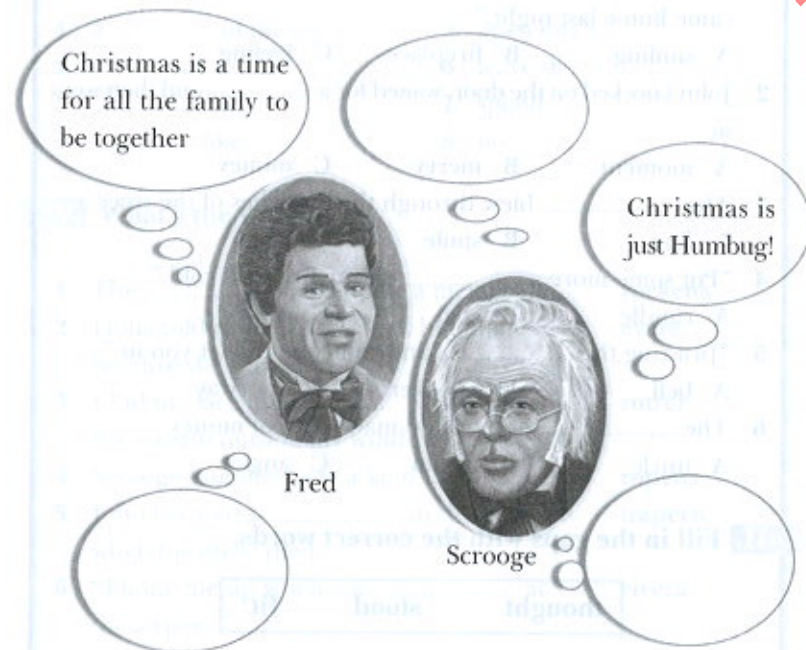
Scrooge is ..... Fred is .....

.....

.....

ii) Use the words from the list to describe a person that you know (e.g. a friend, family, teacher etc)

B i) Fred and his uncle, Scrooge, do not feel the same about Christmas. Read the chapter again and write what each of them thinks.



ii) Do you agree with Scrooge or with Fred? Can you think of anything more to say about Christmas?

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