CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

ADAPTED BY
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NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 24, 2026



aNoiseWithin
Classic Theatre. Modern Magic.

35 YEARS

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Dear School Partner,

Welcome to A Noise Within Theatre! We are thrilled to welcome you to the 35th Anniversary Season—a season in which we look to **Those Better Angels**—a theme inspired by Lincoln's call to our best selves. In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge is forced to confront the selfish mistakes of his checkered past, posing the essential question: *is a person capable of changing themselves for the better?*

In this study guide, you will find articles, classroom activities, behind-the-scenes interviews, and other exciting materials, all crafted to align with the Common Core and the California VAPA Standards. This study guide can be enjoyed by teachers and students alike, our hope being that teachers and students enjoy it together!

We offer this study guide as a free resource for contextualizing the show and drawing parallels with our modern world, and you can find guides from our past seasons available for download on our website.

We hope this study guide will prepare you to enjoy the show to its fullest potential and to create a lasting memory of a fantastic day at the theatre. We are happy to have you!

Warmly,

A Noise Within Education







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MEET THE CHARACTERS

A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol, A Noise Within. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

Major Characters:

Narrator

Ebeneezer Scrooge

Bob Cratchit: Scrooge's clerk

Jacob Marley: Scrooge's former business partner

Fred: Scrooge's nephew

The Ghost of Christmas Past

The Ghost of Christmas Present

The Ghost of Christmas Future

Minor Characters:

Mrs. Cratchit and the Cratchit children:
Peter, Martha, Belinda, Tiny Tim, and others

Mr. Fezziwig: Scrooge's first employer

Fan: Scrooge's sister

Belle: A young woman who was Scrooge's romantic interest

Fred's wife

Ensemble

"God bless us, everyone!"

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Play Synopsis

The Narrator sets the scene, as she will do throughout the show. Ebeneezer Scrooge, a cruel and miserly man, works in his office late on Christmas Eve. He is visited by his nephew, Fred, and others, but he rejects everyone's Christmas Greetings and good wishes. When he leaves, he grudgingly allows his clerk, Bob Cratchit, to take Christmas Day off.

Scrooge returns home and is startled to see the doorknocker of his house suddenly become the face of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who died seven years ago that very night. Soon after entering, Scrooge is visited by Marley's ghost, who tells him that he will be given one last chance to change his ways.

Scrooge is visited that night by three spirits: the Spirit of Christmas Past, who shows him scenes from his childhood and adulthood; the Spirit of Christmas Present, who shows him how Bob Cratchit's family and others celebrate Christmas; and the Spirit of Christmas Future, who shows Scrooge what will happen if he continues to harden his heart against the true meaning of Christmas. Scrooge is deeply affected by the visions that the Spirits show him; he is especially moved by the scenes of Bob Cratchit's family, and particularly by the plight of the youngest child, Tiny Tim, who is unwell.

On Christmas morning Scrooge awakens with a glad heart. Grateful that he has been given this chance by Marley's Ghost and the Spirits, he vows to let the spirit of Christmas guide him on that day and on all other days of the year.



FESTIVE FACTS ABOUT

A Christmas Carol

A Noise Within has produced *A Christmas Carol* every holiday season since 2012!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charles Dickens



Charles Dickens. Flickr.com

CHARLES DICKENS (1812-1870) was an English author who overcame a difficult and impoverished childhood to become the most famous writer of the Victorian Era. Charles was the second of eight children born to John and Elizabeth Dickens in Portsmouth, England. The young Charles Dickens spent much of his time reading; he was also fond of theatricals, including puppet shows, and he had a natural singing voice.

Dickens's father struggled to provide for his family. They relocated several times before settling in Camden Town, a poor neighborhood in London, where Bob Cratchit and his family live in *A Christmas Carol.* When Charles was twelve, his father was sentenced to Debtor's Prison. Charles had to leave school, and he went to live with a family friend and work in a shoe-blacking factory. Except for Charles and his sister Fanny, the rest of the family all lived together at the prison (as was common practice). Each Sunday, Charles visited the prison and saw the horrible living conditions that many of London's working poor experienced. Several months later, an unexpected inheritance freed Dickens's father from debt. Charles left the factory and returned to school. Nevertheless, Charles's time in the factory left him traumatized in ways that would haunt him for the rest of his life. Many of Dickens's novels address such social evils as child labor, domestic conflict, and the hopeless cycle of poverty.

In 1834, Dickens began to write his novel *The Pickwick Papers* in several monthly installments. This form of serialized writing (a story told in episodes) became popular for fiction in the Victorian Era. Many of Dickens's most successful novels, including *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations*, and *A Tale of Two Cities*, were first published in magazine installments. *The Pickwick Papers* was an instant success that immediately earned Dickens the reputation of being a gifted author. In 1836, Dickens married Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of the editor of a London newspaper. Together

FESTIVE FACTS ABOUT

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens used to give public readings of his three Christmas stories: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Chimes*, and *The Cricket on the Hearth*. These were so popular that he continued to do them for the rest of his life.

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Charles Dickens *continued*

they had ten children. *A Christmas Carol* was published in 1843. It was instantly popular and has remained so ever since. Following a series of successful live readings of his works, Dickens formed an amateur theatre company in 1848, where he served as manager, producer, and actor.

During the 1860s, Dickens devoted much of his time and energy to public readings from his novels. But travel began to tire him, and a train wreck in 1865 left him with dizzy spells and arthritis. Nevertheless, Dickens continued to perform throughout both Britain and the United States. On June 8, 1870, Dickens spent all day working on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which was unusual for him; normally he wrote for only two or three hours each day. That night, Dickens complained of a toothache and lost consciousness. Charles Dickens died from complications of a stroke on June 9, 1870, at the age of 58. He is buried in Westminster Abbey, in London.

Other novels by Charles Dickens that have been adapted into plays and produced at A Noise Within include *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*.

"I will live in the past, the present, and the future! The spirits of all three shall strive within me!"



Dutch, R. Deviantart.com

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Themes & Motifs

Victorian England

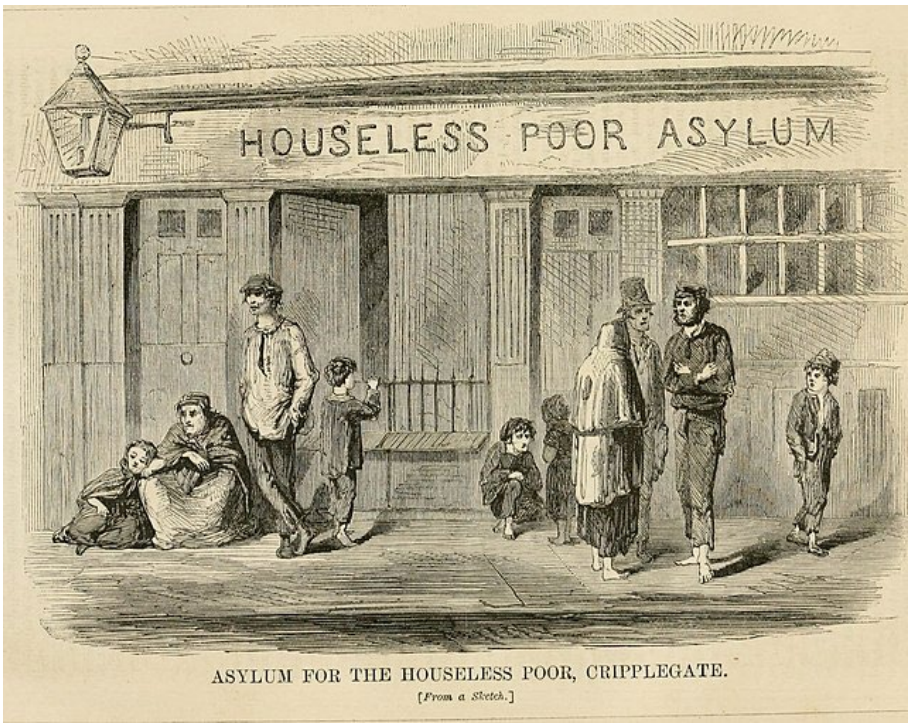
Charles Dickens wrote his novels during the reign of Queen Victoria of England, who ruled from 1837-1901. This was a time of major social change in England, not all of it good. In many of his novels, Dickens criticizes the dishonesty and crime that he saw everywhere around him during this era.

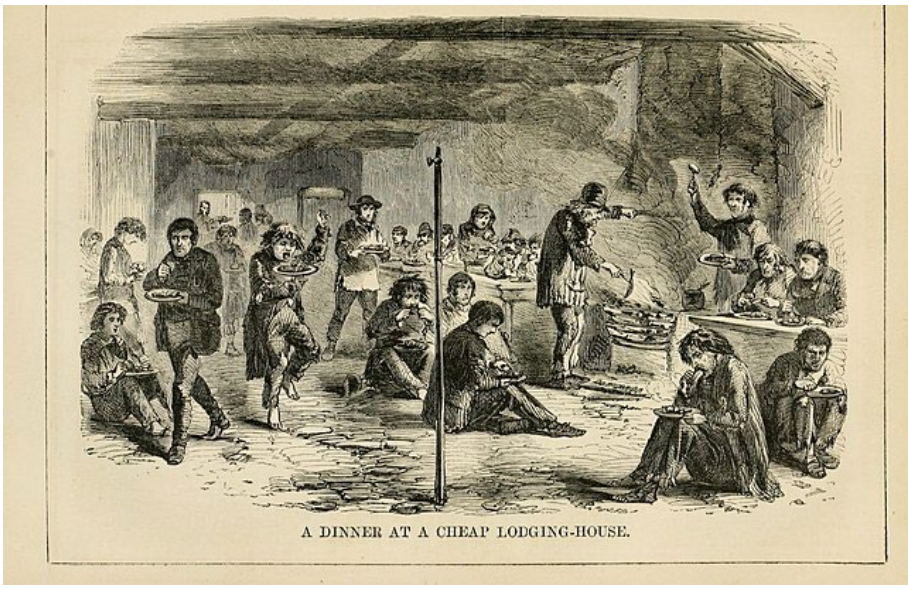
The Working Poor

Dickens was very sympathetic to the harsh conditions of the working poor due to his own experience of poverty during his childhood. His father was sent to a Debtors' Prison (see Victorian Institutions, below), along with his wife and many of their children.

Victorian Institutions

Many Victorian institutions were created as a way to manage the large numbers of working poor. These included Prisons (some of which were Debtors' Prisons, where whole families sometimes lived together if the father couldn't pay his debts), the Union Workhouses, and Orphanages. These institutions compelled the poor to live and work under very harsh conditions. Dickens was especially shocked by the suffering of poor children. They were often forced to work long hours at dangerous jobs, such as chimney sweeps, in order to help their families.





London labour and the London poor. 1861. Wikimedia Commons

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Themes & Motifs
continued



Antony Adu as 'Christmas Present' in *A Christmas Carol*. A Noise Within. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

Family Life & Relationships

All three Christmas Spirits show Scrooge the importance of family relationships, but in different ways. Christmas Past shows Scrooge his loving sister, Fan, who died long ago. This reminds Scrooge that his nephew, Fred, is her only child, and that Scrooge should repair his relationship with him. Christmas Present shows Scrooge the loving Cratchit family, who are happy when they're together, even though they are poor. And Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge how devastated the Cratchits will be if Tiny Tim dies—as he surely will if Scrooge doesn't help the family.



Riley Shanahan and Henri in Lubatti *A Christmas Carol*. A Noise Within. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

Ghosts

In *A Christmas Carol*, there is actually only one ghost: Jacob Marley's. Although often described as ghosts, in the story Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come are said to be Spirits. Marley's Ghost and the Christmas Spirits together represent the invisible forces that affect us and our emotions all the time.

Social Responsibility

One of the most important themes in *A Christmas Carol* is the idea that we are all responsible for each other, and that we must try to take care of each other as well as we can. Marley's Ghost is particularly eloquent on this subject when he says to Scrooge, who attempts to compliment Marley by telling him that he was always a "good man of business," that "Mankind was my business! The common welfare was my business!"

Second Chances

The idea that **it's never too late to change our attitude** is central to *A Christmas Carol*. When confronted by the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come, Scrooge realizes the truth of this idea—he has been shown these visions in order to change his ways while he still can. Marley's Ghost shows Scrooge the agony that he experiences in the afterlife because he never changed during his lifetime.

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITY 1

Theatre Tableau

ACTIVITY
Objective

Build scenes from *A Christmas Carol* using tableau.

Step 1: Define

Tableau is a frozen stage picture—and a very cool way to tell a story! Have you ever watched a movie at home and hit 'pause' halfway through an exciting scene? You can still see the actors, but they are frozen! In a tableau, actors are NOT moving. Instead, actors freeze with a specific shape and facial expression in order to stage a moment in a story. In theatre, this 'living picture' is called tableau!

Step 2: Check What You Know

What is **tableau**?

Step 3: Build Original Tableau

In groups, read the selections from *A Christmas Carol* below. Create three tableau that bring each scene to life. Consider the **setting** and **characters** needed in your tableau.

Scene 1:
"The floor was swept, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire, and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ballroom, as you would desire to see upon a winter's night. In came Belle, Scrooge's beloved. In came Mrs. Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the two Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the two young followers whose hearts they broke. In they all came, one after another, and away they all went. (*Fezziwig Dance*) When the clock struck eleven, the domestic ball broke up."
Scene 2:
"The room vanished instantly and they stood in the city streets on Christmas morning. The weather was severe. The sky was gloomy. Yet there was an air of cheerfulness abroad, as people made a rough but brisk kind of music in scraping the snow from the pavement in front of their dwellings, and from the tops of their houses. They were jovial and full of glee. The Spirit of Christmas Present sprinkled incense on them from his torch."
Scene 3:
"Mrs. Cratchit made the gravy; Master Peter mashed the potatoes; Miss Belinda sweetened up the applesauce; Martha dusted the plates; and Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs. Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife prepared to plunge it in the goose breast. Its tenderness and flavor, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration."

Bonus Question: What is a good title for each tableau?

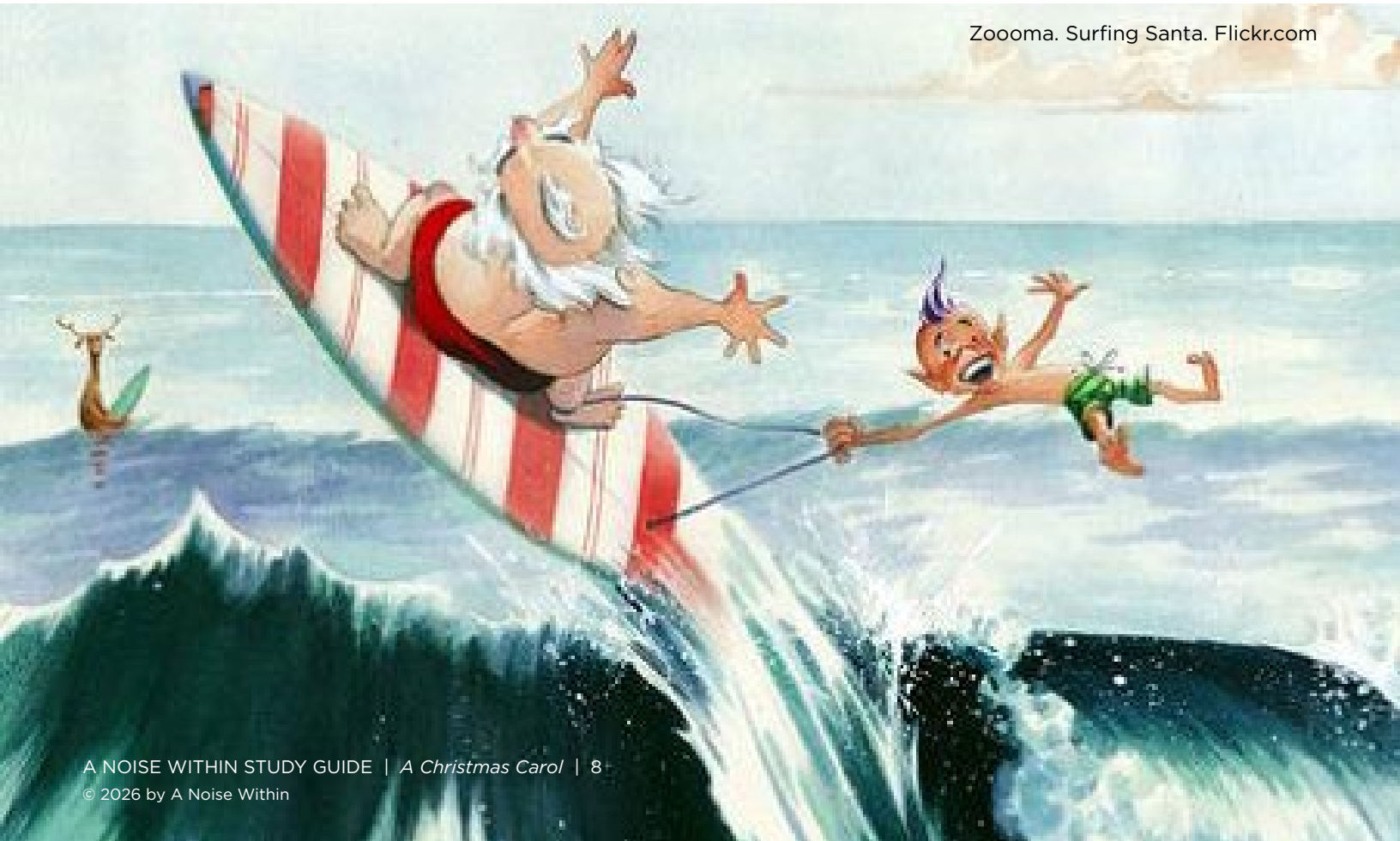
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ESSAY

The Invention of Christmas

Christmas as a holiday of festive celebration did not fully take hold until the 1700's. As for the idea of a "Christmas season," that didn't begin until halfway through the 1900's, largely as a marketing ploy. These days, Christmas items seem to appear in stores earlier each year; a few stores even put out some such items right after Labor Day, and the rest join in the day after Halloween, at the latest. Given that the Christmas Season is getting longer and longer, it may seem strange to learn that between 1600 and the mid-1800's, many Christians (especially the Puritans, both in England and in the early United States) observed Christmas primarily as a religious holiday that was marked by lengthy church services, quiet reflection, and prayer.

Changes to how Christmas was celebrated began to occur in the late 1700's, when a tradition of family gift-giving was established. Other traditions, such as sending holiday cards and decorating a tree, soon joined the lineup. By the mid-1800's, Christmas had become a secular family holiday as well as a religious one for those who chose to observe it. Charles Dickens is often credited as an influencer of this change. Sometimes even dubbed "The Man Who Invented Christmas" (as in the 2017 film and earlier book). In reality, Dickens was simply moving the needle forward on a trend that had taken off at



Zoooma. Surfing Santa. Flickr.com

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The Invention of Christmas *continued*

least twenty years earlier with the publication of Clement Clark Moore's poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (better known as "The Night Before Christmas") in 1823. The Christian Saint Nicholas was associated with gift-giving, and Santa Claus, who brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve, comes from those earlier stories. Santa is known by different names around the world, and he is celebrated in different ways. For example, in Australia, where December 22 is the longest day of the year because the country is in the Southern Hemisphere, many families celebrate Christmas with a picnic on the beach, and Santa Claus is often shown wearing red swim trunks and sunglasses (though he still has his long, white beard).



Posada Mexicana. Wikimedia Commons.

Historians disagree about how December 25 came to be identified as the date of Christ's birth and of the Christmas holiday. But it's helpful to remember that in the Northern Hemisphere, where the shortest day of the year falls on December 22 (the Winter Solstice), many cultures and religions celebrate a holiday in December to mark the changing seasons and the date when the days begin to grow longer. Among these celebrations are Hanukkah (a Jewish holiday); the Hindu festival of Diwali; Bodhi Day (a Buddhist holiday); Kwanzaa; and others. Many cultures also celebrate additional Christian holidays around this time, such as Three Kings Day (also known as Epiphany Day); Las Posadas; and the Feast of St. Lucia.

As we can see, remembering Charles Dickens as "the man who invented Christmas" probably gives the novelist too much credit, but there's no denying that with the publication of *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens contributed greatly to our ideas of what it means to celebrate Christmas. And more importantly, Dickens's story leaves us with a lasting impression of what the Christmas spirit is all about, as well as the idea that values such as kindness, cheerfulness, and generosity are worth practicing every day of the year.

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Victorian Christmas Party

ACTIVITY
Objective

Research Victorian Era holiday traditions to create the perfect party invitation.

Complete this activity after reading 'The Invention of Christmas' on page 8.

Step 1: Research Victorian Traditions

In small groups or on your own, research popular holiday traditions during the **Victorian Era** (1837-1901) of England. For each of the following categories, what was popular? Write down what you discover!

Decorations: _____

Holiday Food: _____

Party Games: _____

Party Activities: _____

Party Attire: _____

Common Phrases: _____

Step 2: Create Your Party Invitation

It is December 20, 1843. You just finished reading a newly released novella called *A Christmas Carol,* and EVERYONE is talking about it. You feel inspired to throw a Christmas party for your friends and family!

On the next page, craft a party invitation with all the necessary information, as well as any details that will get your guests excited. Make sure to include what exciting foods or holiday traditions your guests can expect to enjoy!

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ESSAY

The Many Different Versions of *A Christmas Carol*

When Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, he was hoping that it would sell enough copies to ease some of his financial burdens. Sales of the story exceeded his wildest hopes and helped launch his side occupation as a performer. But even with the tale's enormous success during his lifetime, Dickens could never have imagined how popular it would remain over time. *A Christmas Carol* will turn 200 in less than twenty years, and it is still going strong, with new adaptations and re-imaginings happening all the time.

There are now so many versions of Dickens's heartwarming Christmas story that "Adaptations of *A Christmas Carol*" has its own Wikipedia page (which, though extremely long, is nevertheless incomplete). The earliest public performances were by Dickens himself, who gave readings of this and his two other Christmas stories. They were so popular that Dickens continued to give the readings for many years, a tradition that continues today with celebrity readings. One-man shows, such as those by actors Patrick Stewart and Simon Callow, in which a single actor plays multiple characters (including all of the guests at Fezziwig's Christmas Eve ball), carry on this tradition as well.

But retellings of Dickens's story don't stop there. In February 1844—mere weeks after the story was first published—two stage versions opened in London, and countless other theatrical versions have followed. Film adaptations began in 1901, with a short silent movie entitled *Scrooge, or Marley's Ghost*, and dozens more films have been made in the decades since. There have been musical versions, animated versions, radio and television versions, and audio recordings (including a



Dickens - *A Christmas Carol* editions. Wikimedia Commons.

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The Many Different Versions of *A Christmas Carol* continued

2003 recording by Jim Dale, better known as the voice behind the recordings of all seven *Harry Potter* books). There have been operas, ballets, and graphic novels. There have been parodies, podcasts, and video games. Even the Muppets have gotten in on the action, with the 1992 movie *The Muppet Christmas Carol,* and *Ebenezer*, starring Johnny Depp, will be released in November 2026.



The Muppet Christmas Carol. Wikimedia Commons.

Whenever a work of literature inspires such an extraordinary number of adaptations over such an extended period of time, it tells us that something about that work is timelessly appealing. Certainly the main message that Dickens conveys in *A Christmas Carol* is beautifully simple: money can't buy happiness, and taking care of each other is everyone's job. But there's something more to the story than that. Despite its title, *A Christmas Carol* is not overtly religious, nor does it insist that one belief system is the "right" one. Instead, the tale emphasizes our common humanity and the great truth that kindness and generosity are values that we should all be practicing every single day of the year.

The fact that Dickens conveys this moral through the words and actions of characters who are so vivid that they practically step off the page and into our living room—or into the theatre—ensures that the message comes across clearly, and that it stays with us afterwards. The best-known line in the story, spoken by Tiny Tim, is famous for a reason. We all need to extend empathy and generosity to each other. No exceptions. And it's our generosity of spirit, not our generosity with our Apple Pay accounts, that matters most. **God bless us, everyone.**

FESTIVE FACTS ABOUT
A Christmas Carol

The story has inspired two video games: *Mega Man Christmas Carol* (2010) and *Mega Man Christmas Carol 2* (2011).

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A Conversation with the Costume Designer



ANW Resident Artist Angela Balogh Calin

We sat down with costume designer Angela Balogh Calin, who created the original costume design for *A Christmas Carol* at A Noise Within in 2012! Every December since, Ebenezer Scrooge has visited our stage, with a fresh chip on his shoulder each year.

Can you tell us about your journey towards becoming a costume designer?

I grew up in Bucharest, Romania in a family of artists and I was exposed to theatre from a very young age. I spent most of my free time in the theatre for as long as I can remember (age 4-ish). Later on, in my teenage years I realized what a magical place theatre is and after graduating from the Visual Arts High School in my hometown, I decided to continue my higher education in Scenic and Costume Design. After receiving my MFA from the Academy of Arts in Bucharest, I embarked on this fantastical journey in the theatre - that continues to this day.

If you were not a costume designer, what would you be doing?

I would probably be a visual artist.

A Noise Within has been producing *A Christmas Carol* for many, many seasons! What do you remember about your initial inspiration for the costume design of *A Christmas Carol*?

Indeed, the design process goes back many years; however, I still remember the inspiration for the two distinct groups: the people and the fictional characters. In order to design costumes for the first group, I drew inspiration from the fashion plates from the Victorian era as well as from paintings from the period. To create the costumes for the fictional characters (like some of the ghosts in the play), I used my imagination on what they would look like. For instance, for the Ghost of Christmas Past, I used snowflakes as inspiration, and for the Ghost of Christmas Present, I used the cornucopia as inspiration.

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Costume Designer *continued*

Do you have a favorite costume in *A Christmas Carol*? Don't worry—we won't tell any of the other characters!

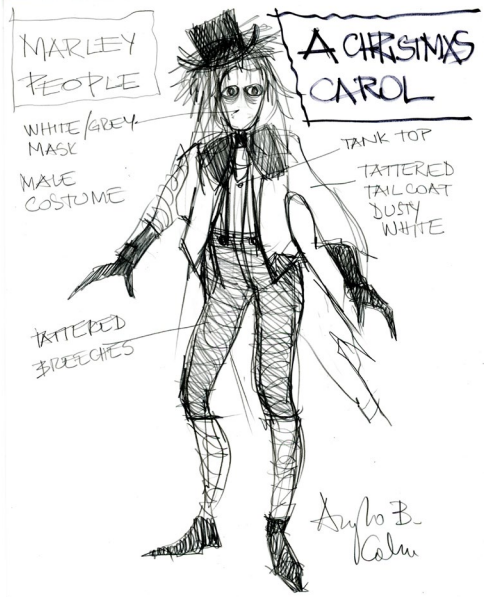
Yes, I do—I actually have two favorite costumes: Christmas Past and Christmas Present.

If a young person wanted to learn more about costume design, what would you say should be their first step?

My advice would be—start by reading as much as possible, draw/scribble, and paint. By doing so, you will develop a creative and original mind which in turn will help you develop your own, unique style.









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Costume Design 101

ACTIVITY
Objective

Use practical text analysis to create an original costume design.

Step 1: Define Given Circumstances

What are given circumstances?

Given circumstances are the details of a world within a story. In other words, they are circumstances of the story and its characters! A character's given circumstances might include:

- Time and Place – the setting of the story
- Social Context – such as rich vs. poor
- Personal Qualities – facts such as age and occupation
- Relationships – towards other characters, such as family friend, or foe
- Emotional State – does the character feel sad, joyful, or some other emotion?

Step 2: Analyze Your Character

Choose one of the following characters from *A Christmas Carol:*

Ghost of Christmas Past Ghost of Christmas Present Ghost of Christmas Future

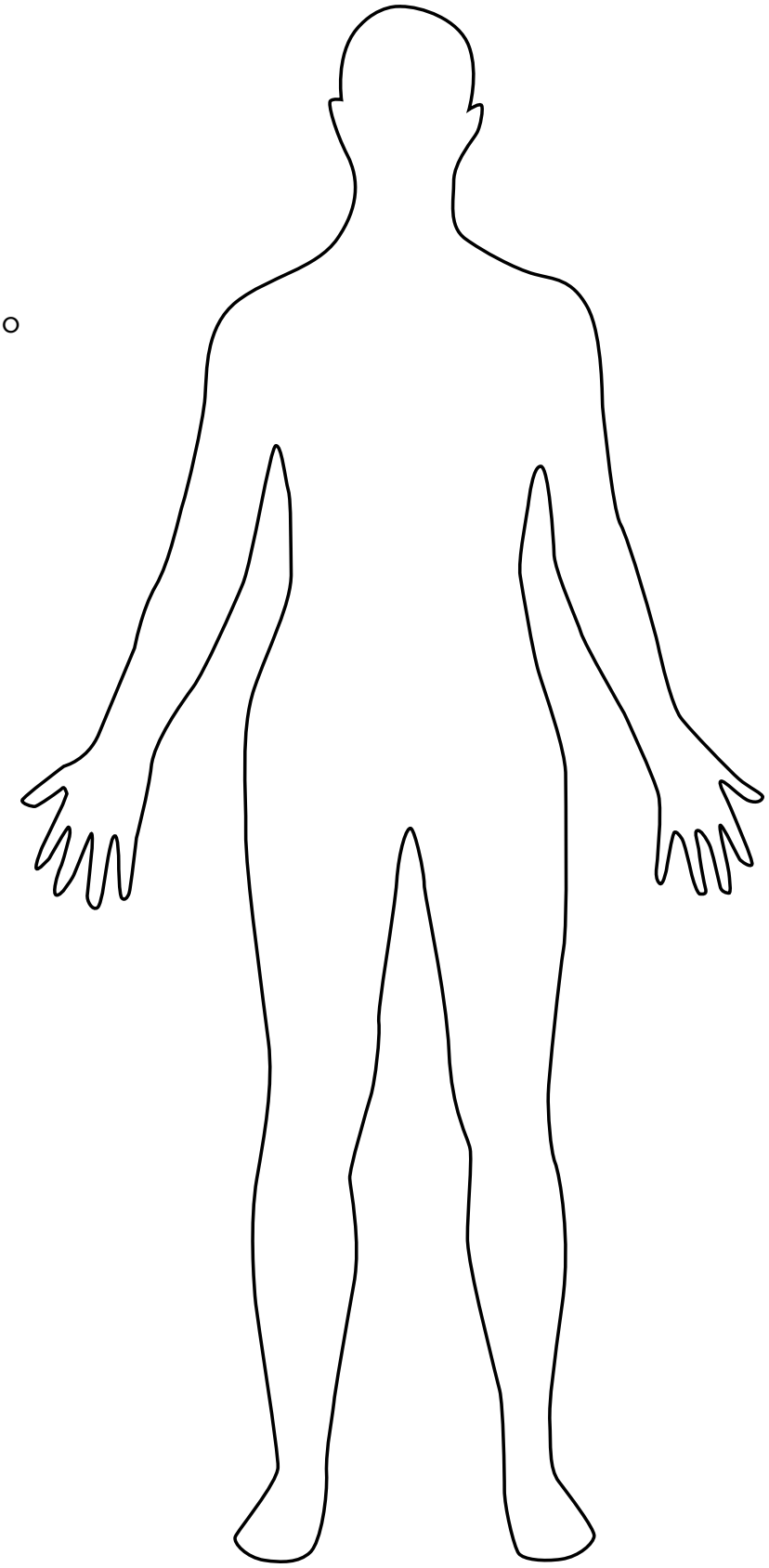
Investigate your character in *A Christmas Carol*. Create a bullet point list of given circumstances you discover along the way. Write down as many details as you can find.

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Costume Design 101 *continued*

Step 3: Costume Design

Take a look at your list of given circumstances. Now that you've organized all of these facts, it is time to get creative! Based on the given circumstances, what kind of costume do you envision for your character? What are the colors, clothing pieces, fabrics, hairstyles, or accessories?
Sketch it here!



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Discussion Questions

1. In what ways can you relate to **Ebeneezer Scrooge**? In what ways are you different from him?

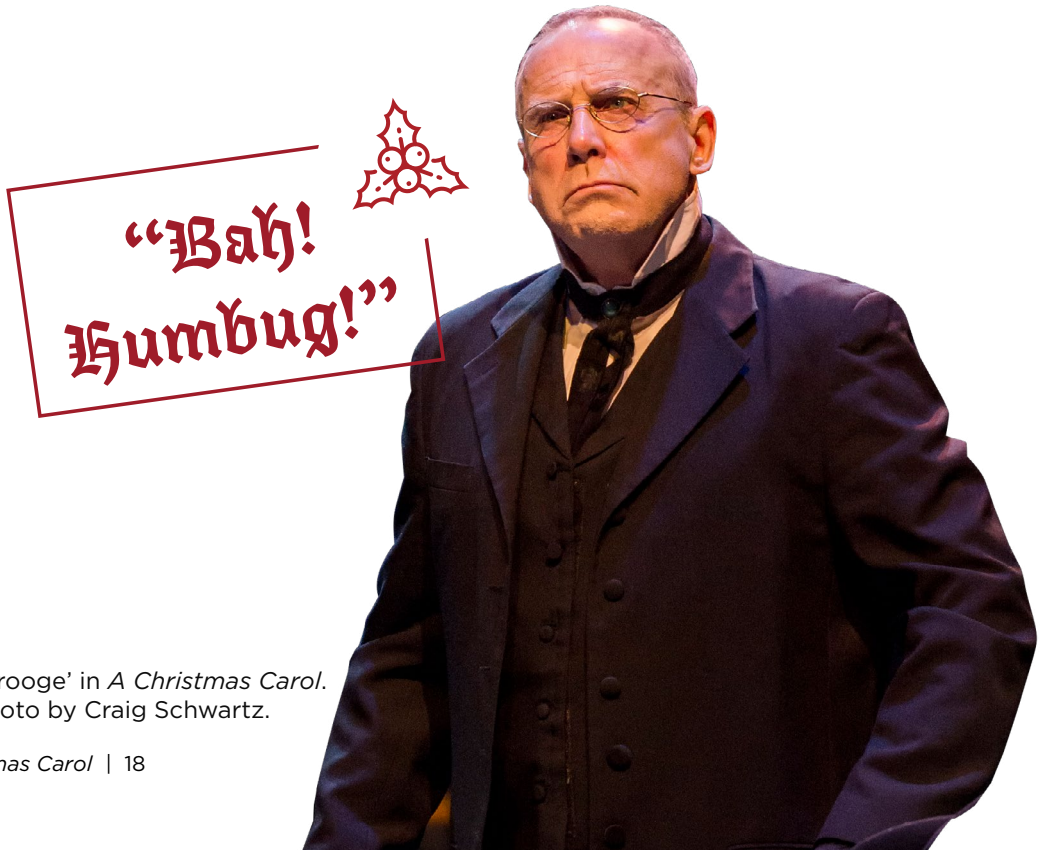
2. How do **Christmas Past**, **Christmas Present**, and **Christmas Future** represent different parts of Scrooge's life? What does each ghost teach him?

3. Name different moments in the play that involve **family.** How does the **Cratchit family** show us the importance of family and friendship? What does Scrooge learn from the Cratchits?

4. How are the topics of **poverty** and **social class** explored in the play? How do these issues relate to our home of Los Angeles County today?

5. Do you believe everyone deserves a **second chance**? Why or why not?

6. The play—as well as the original novella—ends with Tiny Tim exclaiming "God bless Us, Every One!" What **moral lesson** can we learn from this ending? Why did Charles Dickens choose Tiny Tim to speak this closing message?



Geoff Elliott as 'Scrooge' in *A Christmas Carol*. A Noise Within. Photo by Craig Schwartz.

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Bonus Material

Recommended film adaptations:

Scrooge (1951), starring Alistair Sim as Scrooge.

A Christmas Carol (1999), starring Patrick Stewart as Scrooge, and an all-star cast.

Stewart also developed and performed in a one-man show of *A Christmas Carol* on Broadway and elsewhere, including internationally, on and off for many years, beginning in 1988. His reading of the Dickens novel in its entirety is available for listening on Audible and for viewing on YouTube.

A very different one-man show was that of Simon Callow, who performed his take on *A Christmas Carol* in London for many years, beginning in 2011. It was made into a BBC film in 2018.

For a modern musical take, see *Spirited* (2022), starring Will Ferrell, Ryan Reynolds, and Octavia Spencer.

Further Reading and Watching:

For a one-hour BBC documentary entitled *Charles Dickens and the Invention of Christmas* (2007), see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9kuxIjkVug

The 2017 movie *The Man Who Invented Christmas* is entertaining and boasts an impressive cast that includes many recognizable faces (Christopher Plummer, Jonathan Pryce, and Morfydd Clark, among others). It's far from historically accurate, but it's fun and family-friendly. Here's a good review: https://www.npr.org/2017/11/22/564873449/the-man-who-invented-christmas-is-half-history-half-humbug#:~:text=Like%20Professor%20Marston%20and%20the,than%20contemporary%20self%2Dhelp%20books.

For a lengthy—yet still incomplete—list of the many adaptations of Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adaptations_of_A_Christmas_Carol. See also Fred Guida, *A Christmas Carol and Its Adaptations: A Critical Examination of Dickens's Story and Its Productions on Screen and Television* (2000: McFarland & Company).

To learn more about the history of Christmas and how it is celebrated around the world, see: https://www.britannica.com/topic/Christmas

For those wishing to learn more about Charles Dickens's life, good biographies include *Charles Dickens: A Life* (2011), by Claire Tomalin; and *Dickens* (1991), by Peter Ackroyd. Ackroyd's biography inspired a 2002 BBC documentary; he also wrote a drama entitled *The Mystery of Charles Dickens* featuring the actor Simon Callow (2000).

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Bonus Material *continued*

Good biographies for young people include: *Charles Dickens: England's Most Captivating Storyteller (Historical Notebooks Series)* (2011), by Catherine Wells-Cole (recommended for ages 8-12); *Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London* (2011), by Andrea Warren (ages 12 and up); and *The Story of Charles Dickens: Short Stories for Kids in Farsi and English* (2024), by Reza Nazari (ages 3-8), also available in English only.

For a discussion of antisemitism in some of Dickens's works, including information about how his views changed over the course of his lifetime, see Ackroyd's biography (above). For additional information, see: https://jewishcurrents.org/charles-dickenss-anti-semitism. A good book for young people (ages 6-9) on this topic is Nancy Churnin's 2021 picture book entitled *Dear Mr. Dickens*.

A remarkable U.K. website (Projects, Poverty and the Poor Under the Poor Laws: Archives, the Law and the Poor c. 1834-1900) contains historical information about the Victorian poor, much of it in their own words as documented in letters, including appeals for assistance and unwillingness to enter the workhouses. See: https://intheirownwriteblog.wordpress.com/

Here's a link to a 2015 article in *The Guardian* about an exhibit in London's Geffrye Museum about homelessness in the Victorian era: https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2015/jan/02/homelessness-victorian-london-exhibition-geffrye-museum



Buss Robert William Dickens Dream.

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A Noise Within

A Noise Within produces classic theatre as an essential means to enrich our community by embracing universal human experiences, expanding personal awareness, and challenging individual perspectives. Our company of resident and guest artists immerses student and general audiences in timeless, epic stories in an intimate setting.

Our most successful art asks our community to question beliefs, focus on relationships, and develop self-awareness. Southern California audiences of all ages and backgrounds build community together while engaging with this most visceral and primal of storytelling techniques. ANW's production of classic theatre includes all plays we believe will be part of our cultural legacy. We interpret these stories through the work of a professional resident company—a group of artists whose work is critical to their community—based on the belief that trust among artists and between artists and audience can only be built through an honest and continuing dialogue.

In its 30-year history, A Noise Within has garnered over 500 awards and commendations, including the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle revered Polly Warfield Award for Excellence and the coveted Margaret Hartford Award for Sustained Excellence.

More than 45,000 individuals attend productions at A Noise Within annually. In addition, the theatre draws over 18,000 student participants to its Education Program. Students benefit from in-classroom workshops, conservatory training, subsidized tickets to matinee and evening performances, post-performance discussions with artists, and free standards-based study guides.



C. Alvarez A Noise Within.

aNoiseWithin
Classic Theatre, Modern Magic

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott & Geoff Elliott
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