

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (Published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston)

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 7

Summary

In a classic tale about the true meaning of Christmas, miser Ebenezer Scrooge has one last attempt to redeem himself from years of his resentful attitude and money obsession. He has distanced everyone near and dear to him over the years. Then one Christmas, Scrooge is visited by ghosts from his past. These visits are the turning point for Scrooge and lead him to eventually see the true meaning of Christmas.

Connection to the Curriculum

Set in the early 1800's, Charles Dickens characterizes Ebenezer Scrooge as a penny pinching miser who uses exploitation and intimidation that creates conflict with other characters. Students can also examine the internal conflicts that are revealed as Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas. Dickens uses flashbacks as a literary device to demonstrate conflict. In addition, the rich language used by Dickens will help expand vocabulary.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.4.13- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after the reading of the text.

1.4.20- The student identifies the topic, main idea(s), supporting details, and theme(s) in text across the content areas and from a variety of sources in appropriate-level text.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student describes different aspects of major and minor characters (e.g., their physical traits, personality traits, feelings, actions, motives) and explains how those aspects influence characters' interactions with other characters and elements of the plot, including resolution of the major conflict.

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor elements of the plot (e.g., conflict, crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution, rising action, falling action, subplots, parallel episodes) and explains how these elements relate to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

2.1.5- The student identifies the use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, flashback, figurative language, irony, metaphor, tone/mood, symbolism).

A Note on the Text

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

In this Dickens classic, readers encounter "ghosts" of Christmas past, present, and future. These important pieces of the plot enable the main character to change his attitude.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities