

1. Characterisation		
1. Scrooge		Symbol of Victorian capitalism ; echoes Malthusianism sentiment ; avaricious employer; misanthropic ; isolated; the quintessential miser ; redeemed by the end; a caricature of the archetypal businessman; evokes a mixture of disapproval & sympathy; undergoes a rebirth.
2. Jacob Marley		Symbol of Scrooge's conscience ; repentant ; avaricious ; condemned to wander the earth.
3. Fezziwig		Symbol of compassionate capitalism; jovial ; generous; epitome of Christmas cheer.
4. Belle		Symbol of Scrooge's rejection of humanity; sorrowful ; understanding.
5. Bob Cratchit		Symbol of the plight of the poor; kind; humble ; hard-working; dedicated employee.
6. Tiny Tim		Angelic ; evokes sympathy; warm-hearted; highly sentimentalized .
7. Fred		Symbol of the Christmas spirit; enthusiastic; merry ; antithesis of Scrooge.
8. Ghost of Christmas Past		Represents memory; combination of young & old; sheds light on Scrooge's past.
9. Ghost of Christmas Present		Jolly; a majestic giant; bestows Christmas cheer; welcoming; gives birth to Ignorance & Want.
10. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come		Silent; ominous ; seals Scrooge's fate ; evokes fear.
3. Themes and Ideas		
1. Wealth/ Poverty		Wealth not shared fairly; the rich should become philanthropic ; emotional wealth trumps financial wealth; the rich should help the poor, not leave them to die (i.e. Malthus). Poor Laws were cruel; Victorian readers should pity the poor; innocent children were the main victims; poverty will lead to collapse of civilization .
2. Morality		Children, marginalised people, and the poor are society's responsibility and should be treated with dignity and compassion . The wealthy are encouraged to share and be more compassionate for those less fortunate than themselves.
3. Avarice/ Altruism		The avaricious will be punished (in this life or the next); Victorian employers were avaricious; avarice causes unhappiness; Victorian society built on avarice. Victorian poor more altruistic than the rich; altruism leads to happiness; altruism will save society; charity starts at home.
4. Time/Logic		Time and logic are intertwined; when logic is continuously disrupted , it helps to dismantle a cold and rational view of society. In discarding logic, we see a reflection of Dickens' criticism of the heartless economic logic that was used to create the New Poor Law .
5. Family/ Isolation		Togetherness more important than financial wealth; rejection is painful; isolation causes unhappiness; society should behave like a big family.
6. Redemption/ Transformation		Everyone has the potential to transform ; redemption brings joy; readers must examine their consciences and change; society should transform like Scrooge.
7. Christmas Spirit		Christmas spirit brings warmth to the most isolated of places; Christian values of hope & charity should not be forgotten; Christmas spirit is for the whole year; mankind is everyone's ' business '.

2. Literary Techniques and Methods	
1. Literary form	1. Social satire (uses humour, irony and exaggeration to highlight problems in society); 2. social commentary (comments on the issues in society and promotes change by informing the general public about a problem and appealing to people's sense of justice); 3. allegory (story with a political or moral lesson/meaning containing symbolism); 4. prolepsis (the future is shown as reality- in Stave 4.
2. Symbolism	Fog = Victorian moral blindness ; Marley's chains = past will catch up with you; cold = uncaring attitude of the rich to the poor; Scrooge's counting house = greed of society & unfettered capitalism; Ignorance & Want = ragged children of London & collapse of civilisation
3. Irony	OCP repeats back Scrooge's words; Bob toasts Scrooge for meagre dinner; dramatic irony in Stave 4 (we know about Scrooge's death before he does).
4. Contrast	Warm vs cold; light vs dark; greed vs generosity ; alienation vs family; misanthropy vs philanthropy ; Scrooge vs Fezziwig; Scrooge vs Bob; Scrooge vs Fred; GOCP vs GOCYT; Stave 1 vs Stave 5.
5. Stave Structure	Five-stave structure mimics how a Christmas carol is put together- clear reference to joy of Christmas; simple beginning, middle and end structure reveals Scrooge's transformation ; three-ghost structure could allude to typical myths/religious tales .
Authorial intention and Novella Structure	
1. Capitalism	Adam Smith (1776) argued that if you remove rules and taxes from businesses they will flourish & everyone will benefit. This is known as free-market capitalism . The theory is that wealth will trickle down to the poor.
2. Industrial Revolution	Industrial Revolution . People rush to the city as agriculture becomes mechanized and wages fall significantly. The 1840s were known as the 'Hungry '40s' because of economic recession and crop failure.
3. Thomas Malthus	An economist who thought that working-class people reproduce too rapidly & population should be controlled by allowing ' surplus ' people to die – if not, food supplies will run out. Charity should be avoided as it would only result in increased numbers of the poor. Dickens held anti-Malthusian beliefs.
4. The Poor Law and effect on Dickens	Poor Law (1834) was supposed to help the poor but meant they got less support & were sent to workhouses & forced to work in terrible conditions. Dickens forced to work in a blacking factory & father sent to debtor's prison . 1843. Following a visit to a ' Ragged School ' and a government report on poverty, Dickens writes 'A Christmas Carol' in six weeks.
5. Spirits	Many Victorians were fascinated by ' spiritualism ' – the belief that spirits of the dead can communicate with the living. Public séances were common. Victorians also associated Christmas with ghost stories.

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