

Reader's
Theater:

A Christmas
Carol

Characters

- Narrator: Guides the story and provides context.
- Scrooge: A grumpy and stingy man who learns to change.
- Bob Cratchit: Scrooge's kind-hearted employee.
- Tiny Tim: Bob's cheerful and optimistic son.
- Ghost of Christmas Past: A gentle guide who shows Scrooge his childhood.
- Ghost of Christmas Present: A jolly figure who reveals how others celebrate Christmas.
- Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: A silent, mysterious figure showing Scrooge the future.
- Young Scrooge: Scrooge as a boy during the Ghost of Christmas Past scenes.
- Little Sister: Scrooge's kind and playful sibling from the past.
- Boy in the Street: A cheerful child who Scrooge speaks to on Christmas morning.

If you need to simplify or reassign parts for fewer actors, these roles can easily be combined with others.: Characters with the Fewest Lines:

- Boy in the Street (1 line)
- Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (1 line, mostly gestures)
- Little Sister (2 lines)
- Young Scrooge (3 lines)

Optional Props:

1. Coins or Fake Money: For Scrooge's scenes at his desk.
2. Desk and Quill: To set the office scene for Scrooge and Bob Cratchit.
3. Candles or Lanterns: To create a cozy, old-fashioned atmosphere.
4. Chains: For a spooky effect (optional for ghostly entrances).
5. Small Christmas Tree: To represent the Cratchits' simple holiday decorations.
6. Porridge Bowl: For the Cratchits' modest meal.
7. Turkey or Roast Prop: A large toy turkey or cutout for the Christmas feast.
8. Costumes for Ghosts:
9. Ghost of Christmas Past: Flowing robes or a glowing accessory.
10. Ghost of Christmas Present: A wreath or jolly outfit.
11. Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: A dark hooded cloak.
12. Blanket or Bedroll: For Scrooge to use when waking up on Christmas morning.
13. Wrapped Gifts: For the happy ending.
14. Santa Hat or Festive Accessories: To show Scrooge's transformation into a cheerful giver.

Narrator:

Once upon a time, in the busy streets of London, there lived a man named Ebenezer Scrooge. If you asked anyone about Scrooge, they'd all say the same thing:

Townfolk (offstage):

"He's the stingiest man in town!"

Narrator:

And it was true. Scrooge didn't like to share, and he definitely didn't like Christmas.

(Scene: Scrooge sits at his desk, counting coins as Bob Cratchit works nearby.)

Scrooge:

(Muttering) Bah! Humbug! Christmas is nothing but an excuse for people to waste money and sing those awful carols.

Bob Cratchit:

(Politely) But sir, Christmas is a time for kindness, family, and... bonuses?

Scrooge:

(Snapping) Bonuses? Bah! I already pay you too much!

Narrator:

Scrooge didn't care that Bob worked long hours in the freezing office. He only cared about his money. That night, as Scrooge locked up his shop and went home, he didn't even notice the carolers outside.

Carolers (offstage):

(Singing) "We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you—"

Scrooge:

(Yelling) Quiet! You sound like screeching cats!

Narrator:

The carolers ran off, and Scrooge returned to his cold, dark house. But as he sat down in his chair, something strange happened.

(Scene: A ghostly glow fills the room. The Ghost of Christmas Past appears.)

Ghost of Christmas Past:

(Kindly) Scrooge, I am the Ghost of Christmas Past. I've come to show you things you've forgotten.

Scrooge:

(Grumbling) Joy? Bah! I haven't forgotten anything.

Ghost of Christmas Past:

(Touching Scrooge's shoulder) Oh really? Let's see about that.

Narrator:

The room disappeared, and suddenly Scrooge was a boy again, sitting by a small Christmas tree with his little sister.

Young Scrooge:

(Laughing) Look at this! I made it! It's a potato with glitter on it!

Little Sister:

(Giggling) It's perfect! Let's hang it next to my pinecone angel.

Scrooge:

(Awkwardly) I remember this. We didn't have much, but we were happy.

Ghost of Christmas Past:

(Softly) You didn't need money to feel rich back then, did you?

Narrator:

Before Scrooge could answer, the ghost waved their hand, and they were back in Scrooge's dark living room.

Scrooge:

(Grumbling) That was just one memory. It doesn't mean anything.

Ghost of Christmas Past:

(Sternly) You'll see.

Narrator:

And with that, the ghost vanished, leaving Scrooge confused... and still grumpy. But before he could settle back into his chair, another ghost appeared—a giant figure wearing a wreath on his head.

Ghost of Christmas Present:

(Laughing) Ho ho ho! Scrooge, you're in for a treat! I'm the Ghost of Christmas Present, and we're off to see what you're missing right now.

Scrooge:

(Grumbling) I don't need to see anything.

Ghost of Christmas Present:

(Lifting Scrooge with one hand) Too bad!

Narrator:

The ghost whisked Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's tiny home. Inside, the family was gathered around a small table, laughing and speaking.

Bob Cratchit:

(Placing a small roast on the table) It's not much, but it's made with love.

Tiny Tim:

(Clapping) It's perfect, Dad!

Scrooge:

(Watching) That's all they have? They barely have enough to eat!

Ghost of Christmas Present:

(Nodding) And yet they're happier than you with all your money. Funny how that works, isn't it?

Tiny Tim:

(Smiling) God bless us, everyone!

Narrator:

Scrooge felt a strange warmth in his heart, but before he could say anything, the scene changed again. This time, a dark figure appeared.

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:

(Silent, pointing ahead)

Scrooge:

(Nervously) Let me guess—you're the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come:

(Silently nodding)

Narrator:

The ghost showed Scrooge a lonely grave.

Scrooge:

(Panicking) No! It can't be! That's my name on the stone!

Narrator:

Scrooge fell to his knees, tears streaming down his face.

Scrooge:

(Desperate) I'll change! I'll shine! I'll be kind! Please, just give me another chance!

Narrator:

Suddenly, Scrooge woke up in his bed. It was Christmas morning, and the sun was shining.

Scrooge:

(Laughing) I'm alive! And it's Christmas!

Narrator:

Scrooge ran into the streets, surprising everyone with his sudden cheer.

Scrooge:

(To a boy) You there! What day is it?

Boy:

(Confused) Uh... Christmas?

Scrooge:

(Laughing) Perfect! Here's some money—buy the biggest turkey you can find!

Narrator:

Scrooge bought food and gifts for the Cratchits and spent the day with them.

Bob Cratchit:

(Astonished) Mr. Scrooge, I don't know what to say.

Tiny Tim:

(Grinning) Say, "Merry Christmas!"

Scrooge:

(Laughing) Merry Christmas, everyone!

Narrator:

From that day on, Scrooge was the kindest man in town, proving that it's never too late to change.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why was Scrooge so grumpy at the beginning of the story?

What did the Ghost of Christmas Present show Scrooge?

How did Scrooge change by the end of the story?

Scrooge



Bob Cratchit



Tiny Tim



Ghost of Christmas Past



Ghost of Christmas Present



Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come



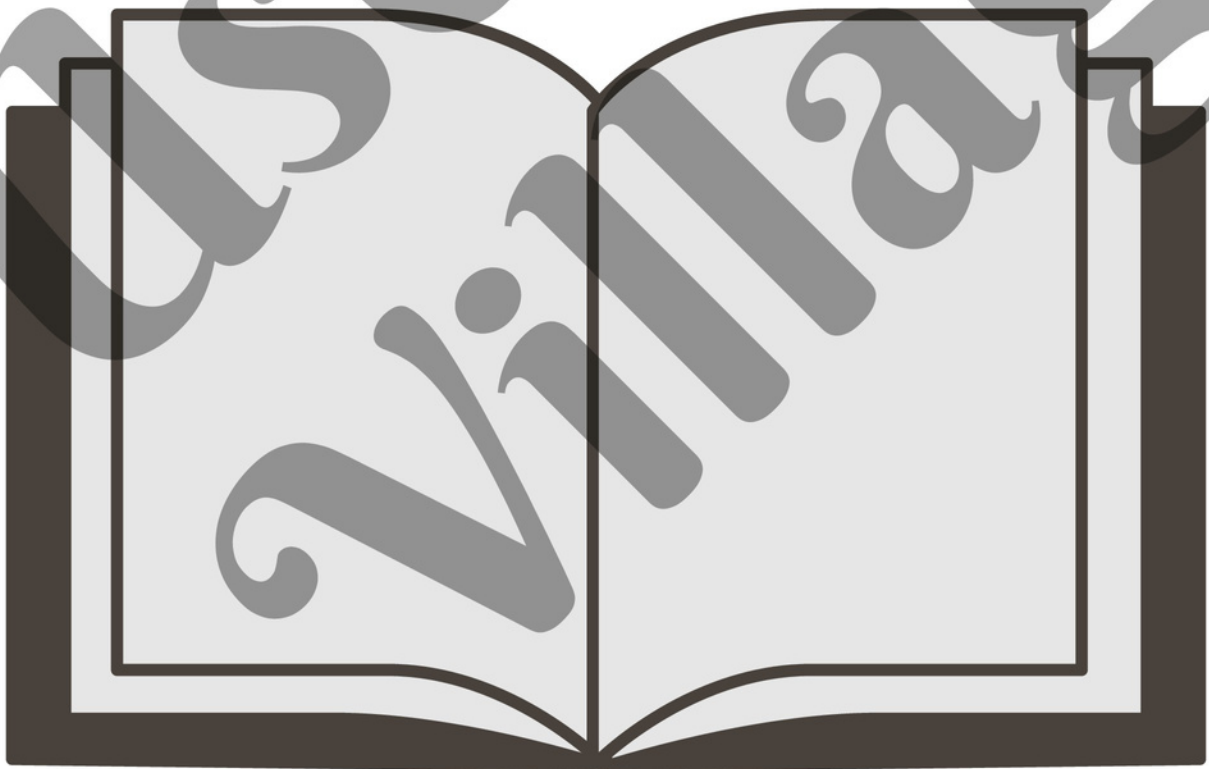
Boy in the Street



Scrooge's Little Sister



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

1. Rewrite the Ending: Have students work individually or in small groups to come up with an alternate ending for the story. For example:

- What if Scrooge didn't change his ways?
- How would the characters' lives be different if Scrooge was kind from the beginning?

Encourage students to write their versions as a short script or narrative.

2. Create a "Kindness Jar": Tie the moral of the story to a real-world application.

- Have students create their own "Kindness Jar" using decorated containers.
- They can write down acts of kindness they perform or observe during the holiday season and add them to the jar.
- At the end of the week or month, reflect on how small acts of kindness make a big impact.

3. Explore Victorian Christmas Traditions: Dive deeper into the historical context of the story.

- Research and compare Victorian-era Christmas traditions to modern ones (e.g., customs, meals, and activities).
- Have students create posters or presentations about what they learned.
- For a fun twist, reenact some traditions, such as making paper ornaments or singing carols.