

Human relationships are essential for emotional fulfilment and moral wellbeing

1. The importance of human relationships can be forgotten by those who are blinded by greed.
2. Prioritising wealth over human connection leads to misery and isolation.
3. Those who prioritise family/connections with others are rewarded.
4. Those who have been neglected or cast aside can find it difficult to build trust and connection.
5. Strong relationships can overcome enormous difficulty.
6. True family/friends will forgive past mistakes and sins.
7. Reconnecting with others can be restorative and transformational.

Social responsibility for the poor is a moral duty that the wealthy must embrace

1. Social responsibility can be neglected by those who prioritise wealth over humanity.
2. Those who understand and practise social responsibility lead fulfilled, joyous lives.
3. Those who are ignorant to social responsibility in life must repent in the afterlife.
4. A lack of social responsibility from those with power leads to pain and suffering of the vulnerable.
5. Those who are ignorant to social responsibility will receive their comeuppance after they die.
6. Social responsibility is crucial for a well-functioning society where the vulnerable can flourish.
7. Understanding social responsibility can be redemptive and transformational for those who have sinned.

Redemption is a vital spiritual transformation for those who have strayed from God's teachings

1. Sinful behaviour that defies God's teachings will be punished.
2. Recognising your own sinful behaviour is an important early step for redemption.
3. Committing to change is a crucial step towards finalising transformation.
4. Redemption is transformative not only for those who return to God, but also those around them.
5. Even the most selfish and isolated individuals are capable of redemption.
6. God will reward those who redeem from sin with joy and enlightenment.

Contextual information:

- Victorian society had extreme class division, with widespread poverty in industrial cities.
- The 1834 Poor Law forced the poor into harsh workhouses instead of offering real support.
- Dickens himself experienced poverty and workhouses when his father was sent to Debtors' Prison.
- Many Victorians believed poverty was a personal moral failing rather than a social issue.
- Child labour was common, with children working long, dangerous hours for little pay.
- Christian values emphasised charity, compassion and moral responsibility. Dickens believed in practical Christianity over performative.
- Dickens believed in education for all and funded Ragged Schools to assist the poor.
- Industrialisation encouraged a profit-driven mindset that often ignored human suffering.
- Dickens believed in the innocence of children and society's responsibility to protect them.

Stave 1 - Hard and sharp as flint ... solitary as an oyster' (describing Scrooge) / 'It was cold, bleak, biting weather: foggy withal' (weather at start) / 'a dismal little cell' (describing Cratchit's workspace) / 'he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled' (description of Fred) 'the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely' (Fred describing Christmas) / 'If they would rather die... they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population' (Scrooge to the charity collectors) / 'The ancient tower of a church, whose gruff old bell was always peeping slyly down at Scrooge... became invisible, and struck... with tremulous vibrations as if its teeth were chattering in its frozen head' (Scrooge walking home) / 'The fog and frost so hung about the black old gateway of the house' (Scrooge's house) / 'I wear the chain I forged in life...No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse.' (Marley's suffering) 'Mankind was my business.' (Marley's realisation)

Stave 2 - 'From the crown of its head there sprung a bright clear jet of light' (Ghost of Christmas Past) / 'A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.' (Young Scrooge) / 'Scrooge wept to see his poor forgotten self as he used to be.' / 'He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.' (Scrooge reflects on Fezziwig) / 'A positive light appeared to issue from Fezziwig's calves. They shone in every part of the dance like moons.' (description of Fezziwig) / 'Another idol has displaced me ... a golden one' (Belle ending relationship) / 'a room, not very large or handsome, but full of comfort...The noise in this room was perfectly tumultuous...The joy, and gratitude, and ecstasy!...(description of Belle's home and family)

Stave 3 - 'Its sparkling eye, its open hand, its cheery voice, its unconstrained demeanour, and its joyful air... Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.' (Description of Ghost of Present) / 'dressed out but poorly in a twice-turned gown, but brave in ribbons' (Mrs Cratchit) / 'Two tumblers, and a custard-cup without a handle. These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have done' (Cratchits' belongings) / 'a feathered phenomenon' (their goose) / 'Scrooge hung his head...overcome with penitence and grief.' (Ghost of Present repeats Scrooge's words about surplus population) / "A place where Miners live, who labour in the bowels of the earth...But they know me. See!" (Ghost describes miners) / 'I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried.' (Fred talking about Scrooge) / 'Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish... Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked' (Description of Ignorance and Want) / 'Beware this boy, for on his brow, I see that written which is Doom.' (Describing Ignorance)

Stave 4 - 'The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached... It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head... left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand' (Ghost of CYTC) / 'Scrooge bent down upon his knee... Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him' (showing reverence to last ghost) / 'unwept, unwatched, uncared for' (Scrooge's dead body) / 'we shall not quarrel easily among ourselves and forget poor Tiny Tim in doing it.' (Bob C to his family after TT has died) / 'It was a worthy place. Walled in by houses; overrun by grass and weeds' (stave 4 Scrooge's grave) / 'Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!' ... 'I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.' (Scrooge's remorse)

Stave 5 - 'I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man.' (Scrooge's rebirth) 'the churches ringing out the lustiest peals he had ever heard. Clash, clang, hammer; ding, dong, bell. Bell, dong, ding; hammer, clang, clash! Oh, glorious, glorious!...' 'No fog, not mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold' (stave 5 – weather at end) / 'It's I. Your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?' (Scrooge reconnects with Fred) / 'Let him in! It is a mercy he didn't shake his arm off.' (Fred's response) / 'I'll raise your salary and endeavour to assist your struggling family' (Scrooge to Bob) / 'Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father.'

