A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 7

Stave 2: Fezziwig

Employer and employee: Fezziwig as a foil to Scrooge

- Analyse how Dickens presents Fezziwig
- Compare Fezziwig and Scrooge as employers
- Explain how Scrooge’s reaction shows change

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. At what time does the first ghost arrive?
2. Which two words describe young Scrooge at school?
3. What is distinctive about the Ghost of Christmas Past’s head?
4. Who comes to take young Scrooge home?
5. Who did Scrooge wish he had given something to?

Type each answer in the chat on “send”, or write them in your book. Score out of 5.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

Did you get them?

1. At what time does the first ghost arrive? **One o’clock**
2. Which two words describe young Scrooge at school? **“solitary” and “neglected”**
3. What is distinctive about the Ghost of Christmas Past’s head? **A bright light shines from it**
4. Who comes to take young Scrooge home? **His sister, Fan**
5. Who did Scrooge wish he had given something to? **The boy singing a carol at his door**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE BIG QUESTION

How does Dickens use Fezziwig to criticise Scrooge as an employer?

Aim

Analyse how Dickens presents Fezziwig

Aim

Compare Fezziwig and Scrooge as employers

Aim

Explain how Scrooge’s reaction shows change

Success: I can support a clear argument with short quotations, analyse word choices and link to context.

CRAFT

What is a foil?

Foil

A character who contrasts with another to highlight their qualities. **Fezziwig** is a foil to **Scrooge**.

Fezziwig

Generous and joyful. He spends “a few pounds” to make his workers happy.

Scrooge

Controls the coal and counts the cost. His clerk’s fire “looked like one coal”.

Message

Employers have the **power** to make others’ lives “light or burdensome”. Dickens asks them to use it kindly.

EXTRACT · STAVE 2 · PART 1 OF 6

Fezziwig’s party

They went in. At sight of an old gentleman in a Welsh wig, sitting behind such a high desk, that if he had been two inches taller he must have knocked his head against the ceiling, Scrooge cried in great excitement:

“Why, it’s old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it’s Fezziwig alive again!”

Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock, which pointed to the hour of seven. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:

“Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!”

Scrooge’s former self, now grown a young man, came briskly in, accompanied by his fellow-’prentice.

“Dick Wilkins, to be sure!” said Scrooge to the Ghost. “Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick! Dear, dear!”

EXTRACT · STAVE 2 · PART 2 OF 6

Fezziwig’s party

“Yo ho, my boys!” said Fezziwig. “No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let’s have the shutters up,” cried old Fezziwig, with a sharp clap of his hands, “before a man can say Jack Robinson!”

You wouldn’t believe how those two fellows went at it! They charged into the street with the shutters—one, two, three—had ’em up in their places—four, five, six—barred ’em and pinned ’em—seven, eight, nine—and came back before you could have got to twelve, panting like race-horses.

“Hilli-ho!” cried old Fezziwig, skipping down from the high desk, with wonderful agility. “Clear away, my lads, and let’s have lots of room here! Hilli-ho, Dick! Chirrup, Ebenezer!”

EXTRACT · STAVE 2 · PART 3 OF 6

Fezziwig’s party

Clear away! There was nothing they wouldn’t have cleared away, or couldn’t have cleared away, with old Fezziwig looking on. It was done in a minute. Every movable was packed off, as if it were dismissed from public life for evermore; the floor was swept and watered, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire; and the warehouse was as snug, and warm, and dry, and bright a ball-room, as you would desire to see upon a winter’s night.

EXTRACT · STAVE 2 · PART 4 OF 6

Fezziwig’s party

In came a fiddler with a music-book, and went up to the lofty desk, and made an orchestra of it, and tuned like fifty stomach-aches. In came Mrs. Fezziwig, one vast substantial smile. In came the three Miss Fezziwigs, beaming and lovable. In came the six young followers whose hearts they broke. In came all the young men and women employed in the business. In came the housemaid, with her cousin, the baker. In came the cook, with her brother’s particular friend, the milkman. In came the boy from over the way, who was suspected of not having board enough from his master; trying to hide himself behind the girl from next door but one, who was proved to have had her ears pulled by her mistress. In they all came, one after another; some shyly, some boldly, some gracefully, some awkwardly, some pushing, some pulling; in they all came, anyhow and everyhow.

[…]

Fezziwig’s party

During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits. His heart and soul were in the scene, and with his former self. He corroborated everything, remembered everything, enjoyed everything, and underwent the strangest agitation. It was not until now, when the bright faces of his former self and Dick were turned from them, that he remembered the Ghost, and became conscious that it was looking full upon him, while the light upon its head burnt very clear.

“A small matter,” said the Ghost, “to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.”

“Small!” echoed Scrooge.

The Spirit signed to him to listen to the two apprentices, who were pouring out their hearts in praise of Fezziwig: and when he had done so, said,

“Why! Is it not? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?”

EXTRACT · STAVE 2 · PART 6 OF 6

Fezziwig’s party

“It isn’t that,” said Scrooge, heated by the remark, and speaking unconsciously like his former, not his latter, self. “It isn’t that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks; in things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count ’em up: what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.”

He felt the Spirit’s glance, and stopped.

“What is the matter?” asked the Ghost.

“Nothing particular,” said Scrooge.

“Something, I think?” the Ghost insisted.

“No,” said Scrooge, “No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now. That’s all.”

His former self turned down the lamps as he gave utterance to the wish; and Scrooge and the Ghost again stood side by side in the open air.

TASK 1 · ANNOTATE

Read again and annotate

1. Underline the adjectives in Fezziwig's "**comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice**". What do they suggest?
2. Highlight the repeated "**In came…**". What is the effect of this structure?
3. Find evidence that the party includes **everyone**, rich and poor.
4. Underline Scrooge's reaction "like a man out of his wits". What is changing?
5. Why does Scrooge say he wants to speak to his **clerk**?

Post your best quotation and one word of analysis in the chat.

TASK 2 · ZOOM IN

Key quotation

> “The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.”
>
> Stave 2 · Scrooge

1. **Word:** what does “fortune” suggest compared with “a few pounds”?
2. **Tone:** how is Scrooge’s voice different from Stave 1?
3. **Message:** what is Dickens saying about the value of kindness?
4. **Link:** where does Scrooge later show the same generosity?

TASK 3 · MODEL

Model: comparing employers

Point	Dickens uses Fezziwig to show that an employer can bring happiness, in contrast to Scrooge.
Evidence	Fezziwig calls “Yo ho, my boys!”, whereas Scrooge keeps the coal-box in his own room so the clerk’s fire “looked like one coal”.
Analysis	The exclamatory greeting shows warmth and equality, while the image of a single coal suggests Scrooge’s meanness and control.
Reader / writer	Dickens uses the contrast to make readers feel ashamed of employers like Scrooge.
Link	Scrooge’s wish to speak to his clerk shows conscience stirring.

TASK 4 · WRITE (12 MINUTES)

Write: a comparison

Write **one paragraph** comparing how Dickens presents Fezziwig and Scrooge as employers. Use “**whereas**” or “**in contrast**”.

Check yourself, then paste your paragraph into the chat

- One quotation about each man
- Comparative language
- Analysis of a word or technique
- Effect on the reader
- Link to Dickens’s message

TASK 5 · WHOLE NOVEL · ONE LINKING SENTENCE FOR EACH

Link it to the rest of the novella

“Bob had but fifteen ‘Bob’ a-week himself”
Stave 3 · Bob’s low wage

“I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now.”
Stave 2 · Scrooge’s change begins

“Mr. Scrooge! I’ll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!”
Stave 3 · Bob’s forgiving toast

“to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father”
Stave 5 · Scrooge makes amends

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** ways Fezziwig differs from Scrooge
2. **2** quotations you could compare
3. **1** question about what Scrooge learns

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.