A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 10

Stave 3: The Ghost of Christmas Present

Plenty, joy and the spirit of Christmas

- Analyse how Dickens presents the second spirit
- Explain what the spirit symbolises
- Link the setting’s transformation to Scrooge

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. Which stave introduces the Ghost of Christmas Present?
2. What did Scrooge say about the poor? (use “surplus”)
3. What is an idol?
4. Who ended her engagement to Scrooge?
5. What is Scrooge’s first reaction to the second spirit?

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. Which stave introduces the Ghost of Christmas Present? **Stave 3**
2. What did Scrooge say about the poor? (use “surplus”) **“decrease the surplus population”**
3. What is an idol? **Something worshipped (here: money)**
4. Who ended her engagement to Scrooge? **Belle**
5. What is Scrooge’s first reaction to the second spirit? **He is timid / hangs his head**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE BIG QUESTION

To what extent is the Ghost of Christmas Present a symbol of Christmas itself?

Aim

Analyse how Dickens presents the second spirit

Aim

Explain what the spirit symbolises

Aim

Link the setting’s transformation to Scrooge

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

CONTEXT

A Victorian Christmas

Christmas customs

In the 1840s Christmas was being rediscovered: carols, cards, trees and family feasts.

The spirit

Linked to **Father Christmas** and **plenty**: a green robe, holly and a cornucopia-like torch.

The throne

Piled with food, it shows abundance, but also asks why some go hungry.

The rusty scabbard

A sword eaten up with rust suggests peace, not war.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 1 OF 4

The Ghost of Christmas Present

It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge’s time, or Marley’s, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, redhot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see, who bore a glowing torch, in shape not unlike Plenty’s horn, and held it up, high up, to shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 2 OF 4

The Ghost of Christmas Present

“Come in,” exclaimed the Ghost. “Come in, and know me better, man.”

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit’s eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

“I am the Ghost of Christmas Present,” said the Spirit. “Look upon me.”

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 3 OF 4

The Ghost of Christmas Present

Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, 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.

“You have never seen the like of me before,” exclaimed the Spirit.

“Never,” Scrooge made answer to it.

“Have never walked forth with the younger members of my family; meaning (for I am very young) my elder brothers born in these later years,” pursued the Phantom.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 4 OF 4

The Ghost of Christmas Present

“I don’t think I have,” said Scrooge. “I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?” “More than eighteen hundred,” said the Ghost.

“A tremendous family to provide for,” muttered Scrooge.

The Ghost of Christmas Present rose.

“Spirit,” said Scrooge submissively, “conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. To-night, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it.”

“Touch my robe.”

Scrooge did as he was told, and held it fast.

TASK 1 · ANNOTATE

Read again and annotate

1. Highlight the **nature imagery** in Scrooge’s transformed room.
2. Underline the **list of food**. What is the effect of so many items?
3. Find words that show the spirit is **welcoming**.
4. Underline the **rusty scabbard**. What might it symbolise?
5. Find evidence Scrooge has **already changed** since Stave 1.

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

TASK 2 · ZOOM IN

Key quotation

> “a jolly Giant, glorious to see”
>
> Stave 3

1. **Words:** what do “jolly” and “glorious” suggest?
2. **Noun:** why “Giant”? Think about size and power.
3. **Symbol:** which Victorian idea of Christmas does this represent?
4. **Contrast:** compare with Scrooge’s Stave 1 description.

TASK 3 · MODEL

Model: the spirit as a symbol

Point	Dickens presents the Ghost of Christmas Present as a symbol of generosity and celebration.
Evidence	He is “a jolly Giant, glorious to see”.
Analysis	The adjective “jolly” suggests warmth, while “Giant” implies a large, powerful spirit who can provide for everyone. The adjective “glorious” makes Christmas seem almost sacred.
Context	The pile of food on his throne links to Victorian ideals of plenty at Christmas.
Link	He contrasts with Scrooge’s frozen self in Stave 1.

TASK 4 · WRITE (12 MINUTES)

Write: a symbol of Christmas

Write **one paragraph**: How does Dickens present the Ghost of Christmas Present? Use a quotation about his **appearance**.

Check yourself, then paste your paragraph into the chat

- Clear point about symbolism
- Embedded quotation
- Analysis of a single word
- Effect on the reader
- Link to Christmas spirit

TASK 5 · WHOLE NOVEL · ONE LINKING SENTENCE FOR EACH

Link it to the rest of the novella

“Come in, and know me better, man.”
Stave 3 · the spirit welcomes Scrooge

“God bless Us, Every One!”
Stave 3 · Tiny Tim’s blessing

“merry as a schoolboy”
Stave 5 · Scrooge’s joy

“he knew how to keep Christmas well”
Stave 5 · the narrator’s final judgment

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** details of the spirit’s appearance
2. **2** things he symbolises
3. **1** sign that Scrooge is changing

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.