A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 12

Stave 3: Ignorance and Want

Fred, education and social responsibility

- Analyse how Dickens presents Ignorance and Want
- Explain why Fred is a foil to Scrooge
- Link the extract to social responsibility

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. What does Tiny Tim say at the end of the dinner?
2. What does the spirit say about “a vacant seat”?
3. Whom does Bob toast at the dinner?
4. How much does Bob earn?
5. What is a foil?

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. What does Tiny Tim say at the end of the dinner? **“God bless Us, Every One!”**
2. What does the spirit say about “a vacant seat”? **The child will die if nothing changes**
3. Whom does Bob toast at the dinner? **Mr. Scrooge, “the Founder of the Feast”**
4. How much does Bob earn? **Fifteen “Bob” a week**
5. What is a foil? **A contrasting character**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE BIG QUESTION

How does Dickens use the end of Stave 3 to promote social responsibility?

Aim

Analyse how Dickens presents Ignorance and Want

Aim

Explain why Fred is a foil to Scrooge

Aim

Link the extract to social responsibility

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

CONTEXT

Fred and the two children

Fred

Warm and forgiving. He says he “couldn’t be angry with him if I tried”.

Foil

Fred contrasts with Scrooge: family, parties, forgiveness.

Education

Dickens saw education as the way out of poverty and crime.

Allegory

The children are not just two people. They **stand for** society’s neglected poor.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 1 OF 2

Ignorance and Want

From the foldings of its robe, it brought two children; wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable. They knelt down at its feet, and clung upon the outside of its garment.

“Oh, Man! look here. Look, look, down here!” exclaimed the Ghost.

They were a boy and girl. Yellow, meagre, ragged, scowling, wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their humility. Where graceful youth should have filled their features out, and touched them with its freshest tints, a stale and shrivelled hand, like that of age, had pinched, and twisted them, and pulled them into shreds. Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing. No change, no degradation, no perversion of humanity, in any grade, through all the mysteries of wonderful creation, has monsters half so horrible and dread.

Scrooge started back, appalled. Having them shown to him in this way, he tried to say they were fine children, but the words choked themselves, rather than be parties to a lie of such enormous magnitude.

EXTRACT · STAVE 3 · PART 2 OF 2

Ignorance and Want

“Spirit! are they yours?” Scrooge could say no more.

“They are Man’s,” said the Spirit, looking down upon them. “And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased. Deny it!” cried the Spirit, stretching out its hand towards the city. “Slander those who tell it ye! Admit it for your factious purposes, and make it worse! And bide the end!”

“Have they no refuge or resource?” cried Scrooge.

“Are there no prisons?” said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. “Are there no workhouses?”

TASK 1 · ANNOTATE

Read again and annotate

1. Highlight the **adjective list** describing the children.
2. Find the **verbs** that suggest they are animal-like or hungry.
3. Underline “**This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.**” Why use capital letters?
4. Find the spirit’s warning about **Doom**. What does it add?
5. Underline where Scrooge’s own words are used against him.

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

TASK 2 · ZOOM IN

Key quotation

> “This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both […] but most of all beware this boy.”
>
> Stave 3 · the Spirit

1. **Personification:** what is the effect of capital letters?
2. **Structure:** why the short, blunt statements?
3. **Word:** why “beware”?
4. **Context:** why is ignorance more dangerous, in Dickens’s view?

TASK 3 · MODEL

Model: Ignorance and Want

Point	Dickens uses the allegorical figures of Ignorance and Want to warn readers about the cost of neglecting the poor.
Evidence	The Ghost declares, “This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.”
Analysis	The short, declarative sentences and the capitalised nouns personify society’s problems, making them impossible to ignore. “Beware” sounds like a prophecy.
Context	Victorian slums and the lack of education for the poor were pressing issues.
Link	Scrooge’s own words, “Are there no workhouses?”, return to shame him.

TASK 4 · WRITE (12 MINUTES)

Write: social responsibility

Write **one paragraph**: How does Dickens present society's responsibility to the poor in this extract? Use **two** quotations.

Check yourself, then paste your paragraph into the chat

- Point about responsibility
- Two quotations
- Analysis of a technique (personification, list)
- Effect on the reader
- Context link

TASK 5 · WHOLE NOVEL · ONE LINKING SENTENCE FOR EACH

Link it to the rest of the novella

“Mankind was my business.”
Stave 1 · Marley’s regret

“If they would rather die, they had better do it”
Stave 1 · the attitude Dickens criticises

“I will honour Christmas in my heart”
Stave 4 · the promise to change

“God bless Us, Every One!”
Stave 5 · the message for all

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** words used to describe the children
2. **2** reasons Dickens uses allegory
3. **1** action you could take after reading

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.