A CHRISTMAS CAROL · YEAR 10 · LESSON 15

Stave 4: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

The final spirit and Scrooge’s fear

- Analyse how Dickens presents the final spirit
- Identify and explain tripling, asyndeton, allusion and sibilance
- Explain how fear changes Scrooge

AO1 · AO2 · AO3

STARTER · 5 MINUTES · RETRIEVAL

Quick-fire recall

1. Who are the two children under the second spirit’s robe?
2. What does Fred say he cannot be with Scrooge?
3. What is the third spirit’s throne made of? (the second spirit)
4. What is a symbol?
5. What is allusion?

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. Who are the two children under the second spirit’s robe? **Ignorance and Want**
2. What does Fred say he cannot be with Scrooge? **Angry**
3. What is the third spirit’s throne made of? (the second spirit) **Food: turkeys, geese, sausages…**
4. What is a symbol? **Something that stands for an idea**
5. What is allusion? **A reference to another idea or work**

Tally your score. Anything missed becomes a revision target.

THE BIG QUESTION

How does Dickens present the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

Aim

Analyse how Dickens presents the final spirit

Aim

Identify and explain tripling, asyndeton, allusion and sibilance

Aim

Explain how fear changes Scrooge

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

CRAFT

Techniques for the final spirit

Tripling

A list of three for rhythm and emphasis: “slowly, gravely, silently”.

Sibilance

Repeated “s” sounds can create a hushed, sinister effect.

Allusion

The black robe and pointing hand echo images of **Death**.

Silence

The spirit never speaks, so the reader’s imagination fills the gap.

EXTRACT · STAVE 4 · PART 1 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached. When it came, Scrooge bent down upon his knee; for in the very air through which this Spirit moved it seemed to scatter gloom and mystery.

It was shrouded in a deep black garment, which concealed its head, its face, its form, and left nothing of it visible save one outstretched hand. But for this it would have been difficult to detach its figure from the night, and separate it from the darkness by which it was surrounded.

He felt that it was tall and stately when it came beside him, and that its mysterious presence filled him with a solemn dread. He knew no more, for the Spirit neither spoke nor moved.

“I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come,” said Scrooge.

The Spirit answered not, but pointed onward with its hand.

“You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us,” Scrooge pursued. “Is that so, Spirit.”

EXTRACT · STAVE 4 · PART 2 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

The upper portion of the garment was contracted for an instant in its folds, as if the Spirit had inclined its head. That was the only answer he received.

Although well used to ghostly company by this time, Scrooge feared the silent shape so much that his legs trembled beneath him, and he found that he could hardly stand when he prepared to follow it. The Spirit pauses a moment, as observing his condition, and giving him time to recover.

But Scrooge was all the worse for this. It thrilled him with a vague uncertain horror, to know that behind the dusky shroud, there were ghostly eyes intently fixed upon him, while he, though he stretched his own to the utmost, could see nothing but a spectral hand and one great heap of black.

EXTRACT · STAVE 4 · PART 3 OF 3

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

"Ghost of the Future," he exclaimed, "I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?" It gave him no reply. The hand was pointed straight before them.

"Lead on," said Scrooge. "Lead on. The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit."

TASK 1 · ANNOTATE

Read again and annotate

1. Highlight an example of **tripling** and one of **asyndeton**.
2. Underline the **sinister imagery**: black, shroud, darkness.
3. Find **sibilance** in the opening sentence.
4. Find evidence that Scrooge is **already changed** since Stave 1.
5. Why does the spirit stay silent? Think about **effect**.

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

TASK 2 · ZOOM IN

Key quotation

> “The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently approached.”
>
> Stave 4

1. **Tripling:** what does the rhythm suggest?
2. **Sibilance:** how does it affect the sound?
3. **Word:** why “Phantom” rather than “Ghost”?
4. **Structure:** why does the stave open like this?

TASK 3 · MODEL

Model: the final spirit

Point	Dickens presents the final spirit as a terrifying figure to show Scrooge the seriousness of his choices.
Evidence	It approaches “slowly, gravely, silently”.
Analysis	The tripling slows the sentence, while sibilance suggests a hushed, menacing approach. The adverb “gravely” also links the spirit to burial.
Reader / writer	The reader feels suspense, sharing Scrooge’s fear of the unknown.
Link	His fear prepares him to learn the final lesson.

TASK 4 · WRITE (12 MINUTES)

Write: the final spirit

Write **one paragraph**: How does Dickens use language to make the final spirit frightening? Use **two** quotations.

Check yourself, then paste your paragraph into the chat

- Point about fear or death
- Two embedded quotations
- Technique named and explained
- Effect on the reader
- Context or purpose

TASK 5 · WHOLE NOVEL · ONE LINKING SENTENCE FOR EACH

Link it to the rest of the novella

“a strange, inexplicable dread”
Stave 1 · fear of Marley

“Lead on,” said Scrooge. “Lead on.”
Stave 4 · courage in the face of fear

“Spirit! remove me from this place.”
Stave 2 · fear of memory

“I am not the man I was.”
Stave 4 · fear drives change

EXIT TICKET

3-2-1

1. **3** techniques Dickens uses
2. **2** reasons the spirit is silent
3. **1** sign that Scrooge has changed

Type your 3-2-1 in the chat.