

## Chapter 2 - Marley's Ghost

What it may surprise you to learn is what Scrooge saw when he reached his lodgings. Jacob Marley's face was in the door knocker! It was not angry or ferocious, but looked at Scrooge as Marley used to look. It was not just the shadow of a face, but as clear and as livid in colour as a bad lobster. It was horrible to behold, and to say that Scrooge was not startled would be untrue - yet ignoring it, he turned his key resolutely in the lock, walked into his gloomy hallway and lit a candle.

"Pooh, pooh!" he said to the knocker and slammed the front door shut. Scrooge went to make some gruel upon his meagre fire, but there in every fireplace tile was Marley's face looking out at him!  
"Humbug!" said Scrooge as he walked away.

After several turns around the room he sat down again, but then the clock bells in the room began to ring at once and a chain clanked upon the stair.

"It's humbug still!" said Scrooge. "I won't believe it."

But Scrooge turned pale when Marley himself floated through the door! Still he would not believe it, and told the ghost he was the product of indigestion.

"You may be an undigested bit of beef," he protested, "a blot of mustard, or a fragment of potato. There's more of gravy than there is of grave about you."

At this, the ghost untied the bandage around his head and as his jaw fell to his chest, a fearful wail came out of it. Scrooge fell quaking upon his knees.

"Mercy, dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?" he asked.

"I come to warn you," wailed Marley's ghost. "I did not go forth to help in the world during my life, so now my spirit is condemned to do so. I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link and yard by yard."

Marley told Scrooge the chain of keys and cash boxes he wore was the result of his miserly life. He begged Scrooge to change his ways before he died, or he would become a fettered phantom too!

"Jacob," implored Scrooge. "Speak comfort to me."

"You will be visited by three spirits," Marley told Scrooge. "Expect the first tomorrow when the bell tolls one; the second on the next night at the same hour; and the third on the next night on the stroke of twelve." He begged Scrooge to learn from them.

"Without their visits," said Marley, "you cannot hope to shun the path I tread."

Then, as Scrooge stared in horror, the spectre bound its head again, took up its chain and walked towards the window. As the window opened itself, old Marley's ghost floated backwards out of it.

"Remember what has passed between us!" cried Marley.

The night air he joined was thick with moaning phantoms. Each wore a heavy chain. Still in his dressing gown, Scrooge fell into bed. He tried to say "humbug", but couldn't. "Hum...hum...hu..." was all he could manage

### A Christmas Carol - Marley's Ghost

1. Name two places that Scrooge sees Jacob Marley's face before the ghost appears.
2. Find two synonyms for 'ghost' in this chapter.
3. Why does the ghost wear chains? Find evidence from the text to support your answer.
4. Marley tells Scrooge that three more ghosts will visit him. Why does he say this needs to happen?
5. Why do you think that Scrooge is unable to say 'humbug' at the end of the chapter?

### Challenge

For each sentence, show whether this is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

- a) Scrooge was irritated by Marley's face appearing on his door knocker
- b) Scrooge fell to his knees when the ghost wailed.
- c) The ghost left the house by floating out of the window.

d) The phantoms at the end of the chapter are moaning because they don't want to be dead.

### A Christmas Carol - Chapter 3 (B)

LC: Can I apply comprehension strategies?

I can discuss an author's choice of language.

1. Find two synonyms for 'ghost' in this chapter.
2. Why does Scrooge turn his key 'resolutely' in the lock? Think of another word the author could have used here.
3. What evidence is there in the text that Scrooge does not like to spend his money?
4. What is indigestion? Why do you think Scrooge blames it for the ghost appearing?
5. The author says that Marley made his chain 'link by link and yard by yard'. Why do you think he has chosen to repeat each word?

#### Challenge

Create a story board with no more than four pictures to show the events that happened in this chapter.

### A Christmas Carol - Chapter 3 (G)

LC: Can I apply comprehension strategies?

I can consider the choices an author has made.

1. How many synonyms for ghost can you find in this chapter? Why do you think the author used so many?
2. What does Marley mean when he says "Without their visits...you cannot hope to shun the path I tread"?
3. The author says the ghost let out a 'fearful wail'. What other words could he have used to mean the same thing?
4. What techniques has the author used to build suspense in this chapter?
5. The author says that Marley made his chain 'link by link and yard by yard'. Why do you think he has chosen to repeat each word?

#### Challenge

Does this chapter have a moral? What is it? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

### A Christmas Carol - Chapter 3 (G+)

LC: Can I apply comprehension strategies?

I can use evidence from the text to support my ideas.

1. How many synonyms for ghost can you find in this chapter? Why do you think the author used so many?
2. Do you think Scrooge is expecting the ghost to appear? Why/why not?
3. What techniques has the author used to build suspense in this chapter?
4. How do you think Scrooge is feeling at the end of the chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
5. Does this chapter have a moral? What is it?

#### Challenge

Do you think this warning visit will change Scrooge's behaviour? Why/why not?