

The Children's Theatre OF CINCINNATI

TEACHER CURRICULUM & ACTIVITY GUIDE

Bah Humbug! A ONE-MAN CHRISTMAS CAROL



It's Charles Dickens famous holiday classic, with an amazing twist... one actor plays ALL the roles! In this story, you'll experience all of your favorite characters from "A Christmas Carol" in this imaginative, and magical re-telling of the powerful holiday tale of hope and compassion.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a businessman who thinks only of making money. For him, Christmas is, in his own words, a humbug. It has been seven years since his friend and partner, Jacob Marley, died. On Christmas Eve, Marley's ghost appears to warn Scrooge to change his ways and tells him he is to be visited during the night by three spirits.

CURRICULAR TIES

LANGUAGE ARTS

LITERATURE/WRITING/LANGUAGE

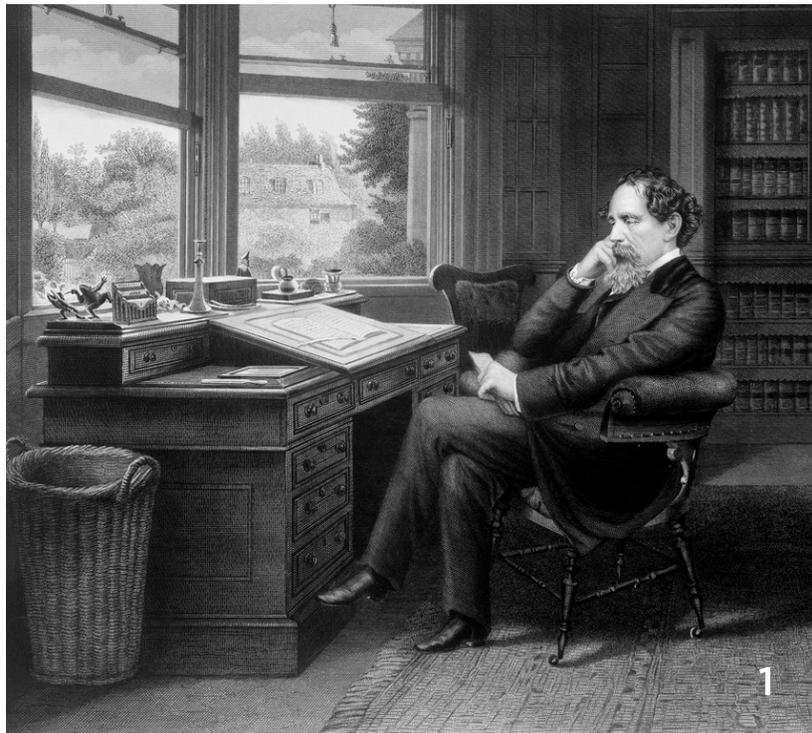
Students can read, comprehend, and analyze the construction of the story's text, as well as its relation to the source material, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"; additional opportunities exist to discover and study the author, and his other literary works. Students will acquire new vocabulary, and explore figurative language, while building domain-specific literacy.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer, best known for his creating some of the world's most popular literary characters, and widely regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His novels and short stories, including "A Christmas Carol", "David Copperfield", "Oliver Twist", "Great Expectations", and "A Tale of Two Cities", are still read widely today. Born in Portsmouth, the young Dickens was forced to leave school to work in a factory when his father was jailed in a debtors' prison. In addition to his 15 novels, he also edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote five novellas, hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles, and regularly performed his writings in public. Dickens is praised for his realism, comedy, style of prose, unique characterizations, and social commentary. The term "Dickensian" is often used to describe poor social conditions, or comically repulsive characters, reminiscent of his creations.

FINE ARTS

DRAMA is investigated through character work and storytelling. Linguistic and interpersonal learners will engage with the written word, and collaborative process.

VISUAL ARTS are explored through set and costume design. Visual learners will delight in the physical construction of the world of the play.





SUGGESTED READING

FOR ALL GRADES

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

ALTRUISM VS. SELFISHNESS

The story charts Scrooge’s evolution from selfish miser to generous neighbor.

FATE (PRE-DETERMINED) VS. DESTINY (CHOICE)

The story raises the question of whether the outcome of Scrooge’s life has already been determined, or is within his power to change.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

GRADES K-2

In the story, Scrooge is visited by three spirits, embodying three aspects of Christmas: Past, Present, and Future. Have students draw pictures of these three aspects of their own holiday experiences: One drawing dedicated to a vivid memory from their past; one drawing dedicated to something important from their present; and one drawing dedicated to forecasting how a future holiday might look/feel. Have students share their drawings with their classmates. Discuss the differences, and similarities, between their drawings.

GRADES 3-6

In the story, Scrooge learns the value of generosity towards others. Have your students keep gratitude journals.

The simple act of writing down those things for which they are grateful can have a profound effect. Robert A. Emmons, PhD, recognized as the world’s leading scientific expert on gratitude psychology, explains why: “Writing...allows you to see the meaning of events going on around you and create meaning in your own life.” Through acknowledgment and thankfulness for the good in their lives, students who keep gratitude journals will be more conscious of generosity in their everyday lives. At the end of the predetermined journaling period (week/month/etc), have students share what they were grateful for with their classmates. Discuss whether the act of journaling their gratitude made them more aware of the generosity they give and receive on a daily basis.

GRADES 7-12

In the story, Scrooge is visited by three spirits, embodying three aspects of Christmas: Past, Present, and Future. Have students journal about these three aspects of their own holiday experiences: One entry dedicated to a vivid memory from their past; one entry dedicated to something important from their present; and one entry dedicated to forecasting how a future holiday might look/feel. At the end of the predetermined journaling period (three days), have students share their journal entries with their classmates. Discuss the differences, and similarities, between their journal entries.

