

Module Two: Marley's Ghost



Weekly Overview & Objectives

This week we'll start meeting Scrooge's ghosts when Jacob Marley comes clanking up the stairs sporting the heavy "chain he forged in life." We'll also have an opportunity to take a glimpse into the cinematic past by viewing a short silent movie version of *A Christmas Carol* that was made in 1910. Do the actors and sets used in this century old film match how you envision the story playing out in your head?

In addition, we'll also read a clever re-imagining of Dickens' first American public reading given in Boston (during his 2nd tour of the states). The narrative is told from the point of view of George Putnam's imaginary sister. George Putnam was an actual person who served as Dickens' secretary during his initial tour of America. If you'd like to investigate those adventures further, George's real life memories of those events can be found in the optional readings this week. Nan Miller's article, blended with plenty of fact and a little literary license, perfectly illustrates the author's claim that:

"It was Charles Dickens — not the Beatles — who was the first Brit to take America by storm."

As you read **Stave One: Marley's Ghost** try to imagine what it might have been like to hear the author embody his characters fully and recite those words to you from an elegantly appointed stage all aglow with gas lights. Finally, in a nod to Charles Dickens' acting prowess, we'll share our own favorite film actor portrayals of Ebenezer Scrooge and continue working on part two of the "Pinterest Unit Activity."



Objectives:

- Students will investigate the historical context of Victorian Christmas customs
- Students will examine the myriad of ways that Charles Dickens's novel has been adapted since its publication in 1843
- Students will investigate the historical context of Victorian Christmas customs



What's My Motivation?

Yay! Looks like you're ready to start becoming your character. Happy pinning!



Readings & Media

Note: Whenever possible any web based resources have also been uploaded as PDFs just in case one of those pesky domains goes down while you're trying to do your homework.

Please Read the Following Required Items:

- Stave One: Marley's Ghost in The Annotated Christmas Carol (Pages 7 – 48)
- [A Christmas Carol: The Silent Film](#) (1910) [Alternative Link](#)
- [We Came to Hear Dickens](#) by Nan Miller
- [Retelling A Christmas Carol](#) by Paul Davis

Optional Readings:

- Four Months with Charles Dickens: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) by G.W. Putnam (The Atlantic, 1870)



Discussion: Who's Your Ebenezer



Paul Davis notes in Retelling A Christmas Carol (linked above in your required readings section) that:

...the carol was written to be retold. Dickens was its creator, but it is also the product of its re-creators who have retold, adapted, and revised it over the years.

Davis further concludes that:

Dickens may have framed our thoughts and established the broad outlines of the story, but the Carol is rewritten each Christmas, and Scrooge, as an altered spirit, appears anew with each retelling.

Do you remember your first "live" Scrooge? I wish I could say that the extremely regal Lionel Barrymore was my introduction to the celluloid version of this tale but in truth Scrooge McDuck (best known for swimming in vaults of gold) was my cartoon introduction to this Christmas classic. Imagine my surprise when I first read the actual novel in 4th grade and learned that the Ghost of Christmas Past was not cuddly Jiminy Cricket but instead an eerie figure with a flaming candle-like head. Since then I've formed my own personal favorite portrayal of the old miser, which I'll share with you at the end of the week via the announcements so as not to unduly sway your opinions.

What about you? Please share with the class your history with A Christmas Carol. Were you first introduced to the story as a novel or did your initial exposure come from somewhere else? In addition, given the sheer number and variations of Scrooge in pop culture, who do you consider to be your ideal Ebenezer? Why is that version of the character so special to you? Finally, what do you think Charles Dickens would think of your choice?

If you're having trouble recalling some of the many options you have to choose from [here's an expansive list](#) to get you started.

Please post your initial thoughts on the discussion board **by Friday**.

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmate's postings **by Sunday**.

Some Food For Thought:

- Have you seen the version they've noted?
- Do you agree or disagree with their choices?
- Have you been inspired to check out a new version of A Christmas Carol due to their resounding praise of such and such an actor?



Pinterest Character Board Project: Part II

As you begin reading the first section of A Christmas Carol make sure you're thinking strategically about whom you may want to select as a character for your project.

In addition, if you don't already have a Pinterest account would you please [sign-up](#) for one? If you're still feeling a little uneasy or you're completely new to the tool make sure to check out [this overview](#) as well.

Your next "order of business" will be to practice with Pinterest. Try [creating a board](#) or two. They can be about anything; you don't necessarily have to practice within the Christmas Carol genre at this point. I'd also suggest becoming [familiar with Pinterest's search](#) tool as one way to find pin-able content already housed on the site and which you can potentially add to your project boards.

Remember: you can also pin images and items to Pinterest directly from webpages you find on the Internet.

Once you feel comfortable with Pinterest please post the url of your profile to the appropriate discussion forum. Then visit each of your classmates' profiles and click on the "Follow" button so you'll be able to interact with one another. Each of these tasks should be completed **by Sunday**.

Follow All

For your information, the overarching schedule for this project will work as follows. This week's portion of the activity is shaded in green:

Week	Portion of the Activity Due
Week One <input type="checkbox"/>	Review the recommended Pinterest board examples referenced in the module.
Week Two <input type="checkbox"/>	Sign-up for a Pinterest account and practice pinning items if you are not familiar with the tool. Start to begin thinking about which character in the book you'd like to work with and portray. Share the url of your Pinterest Profile in the indicated class discussion forum. Follow all of your classmates' accounts.
Week Three <input type="checkbox"/>	Select the character you will work with via the sign-up sheet provided in the class wiki. Begin to create boards (collections) specific to your choice and start pinning items. Make sure to review/ keep in mind the historical context of the Victorian era, especially if you are unsure if your character would eat, wear, use etc...a certain item.

Week Four <input type="checkbox"/>	Finalize your collection of boards on Pinterest and post the URL of the items to the appropriate forum in the class discussion board. Prepare a short narrative to include with your project where you discuss your thinking and rationale for the items you selected for your character.
Week Five <input type="checkbox"/>	Review the boards of your classmates and select 3 to respond to in character. Be sure to sign each of your comments to your classmates with the name of your character. You'll want to make it clear that you're "being" Tiny Tim or Scrooge and not Katherine Jones or Patrick Smith.



Checklist

- Sign-up for a Pinterest account if you don't already have one. Start practicing with the tool.
- Complete the required readings by Friday
- Post the "Who's Your Ebenezer" responses to the discussion board by Friday
- Share the url of your Pinterest profile and follow your classmates' account by Sunday
- Respond to your classmate's Ebenezer postings by Sunday