



## Module Four: The Second of the Three Spirits



### Weekly Overview & Objectives

In this week's reading you'll be exposed to several versions of a Victorian Christmas. Each varies quite a bit mainly due to the observed families' economic situations. While reading, note the differences between the Cratchit family's modest celebration and Fred's more festive carousing with company. Remember, the scenes from this part of the novel are often cited as the most exciting and are frequently among the top plot points recalled by both readers and viewers of A Christmas Carol -- so you're in for a treat.

In this week's media section I've also included a video from TheSupersizers Go series. While the hour long Victorian themed special is peppered with some pretty hilarious and comic moments, mainly involving corsets, strange foods, and bizarre-to-us customs, I think you'll also have the opportunity to learn quite a bit of useful facts about the time period in a rather novel yet informative manner.



Domestic life in the Victorian age could range wildly from complete and utter opulence to devastating poverty. To that end a woman like Mrs. Cratchit, who knows how to stretch a dollar, is definitely someone you'd want on your side -- or at least living down the lane from you. This week we'll step into her shoes and take a stab at composing and answering "Dear Abby-like" letters on various conundrums that might occur in her time period. Cooking, religion, relationships, children...what will you make an inquiry about?

#### Objectives:

- Students will investigate the historical context of Victorian Christmas customs
- Students will express a thorough understanding of A Christmas Carol's storylines, characters, conflicts, and symbolism



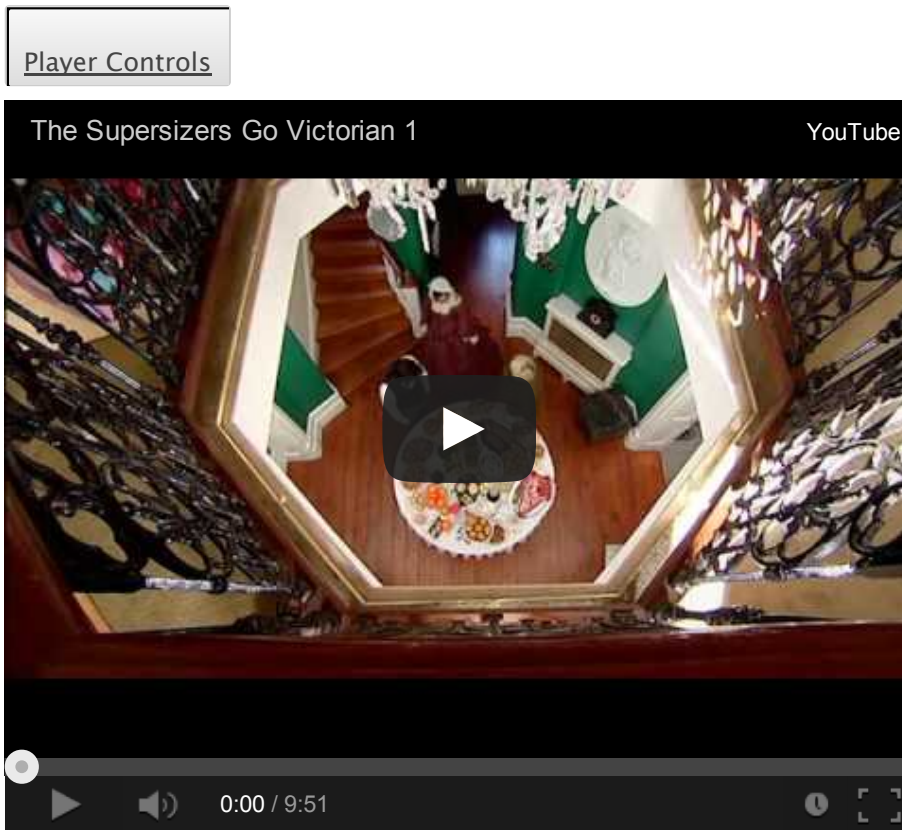
### Readings & Media

**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 or Watch the Following Required Items:

- Stave Three: The Second of the Three Spirits in The Annotated Christmas Carol (Pages 79 – 125)

- [The Supersizers Go](#) [\[Or Here\]](#) **Note:** Part of 1 of 6 is viewable below. Visit one of the two links provided here in order to view the entire video.



**Optional Readings:**

- [It Happened to Me: I'm Living Like I'm in the Victorian Era](#)

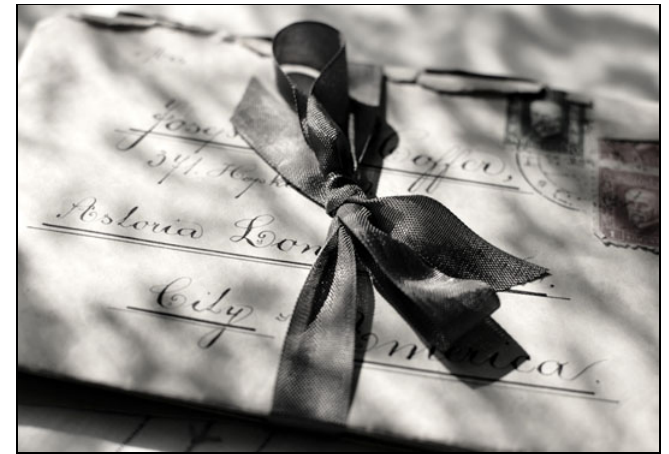


**Dear Mrs. Cratchit**

This week we've been introduced to the formidable Mrs. Cratchit. I wouldn't want to get on her bad side... Let's hope Ebenazer has a change of heart in the next chapter or I suspect his clerk's wife will have some very choice words for him. That being said, let's take a closer look at domestic issues in the Victorian Age. The below items are resources for you to use while brainstorming for the assignment. They're just a jumping off point.

#### Resources for Your Consideration:

- [The Book of Household Management](#) by Mrs. Beeton  
**Note:** a free HTML version is linked here as well as several other editions that you can upload to various eReaders including your iPad [Use the EPUB file] or Kindle.
- [Victorian Children in Victorian Times](#)
- [Victorian Life Through a Lens](#)
- [Top-Ten Creepy Aspects of Victorian Life](#)
- [Virtual Victorians: A Day in the Life](#)



For this assignment you'll be paired in small groups. On the class blog each of you will compose letters to Mrs. Cratchit asking for advice. You'll then offer advice in the voice of Mrs. Cratchit to your partner(s). So, for example, if your group is composed of Michael, Elizabeth, and Shannon, then Michael will comment on Elizabeth and Shannon's letters with his advice ("channeling" the spirit of Mrs. Cratchit to the best of his ability). This is also a great warm-up for the culminating portion of our Pinterest Unity Activity where you'll be commenting on your classmates' projects in character.

Your "Dear Emily" letter should involve a question or concern pertaining to a Victorian household. I would recommend framing your letter with a vignette or story and ending the letter with your overall question. You'll definitely need to do a little research to make sure you're answering the question(s) posed correctly.

Your comments/feedback to your partners do not need to be longer than 500 words but they should include citations (MLA or APA – I don't have a preference just please be consistent) for the website, book, article etc... that you accessed to give your advice.

Please submit your initial Dear Mrs. Cratchit letter to the class blog located on the course menu **by Friday**. Then research, prepare, and post responses to your partner(s) letters **by Wednesday of Week 5 (next week)**.

**Note:** If you feel that pictures, video or other media will assist you in the composing of, or responses to your letters please feel free to use them.



#### Pinterest Character Board Project: Part IV

This week you'll continue working on curating your character boards in Pinterest. When you're ready, post the URLs of your finalized collection of 3 boards and your narrative to the appropriate forum in the class discussion board **by Sunday**.

Your short narrative (around 500 – 750 words or 1 – 1 ½ pages) should focus on your thinking and rationale for the items you selected for your character and cite examples from the text that support your curatorial choices.

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
<b>Week One</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Review the recommended Pinterest board examples referenced in the module.
<b>Week Two</b> <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.
<b>Week Three</b> <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.
<b>Week Four</b> <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.
<b>Week Five</b> <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.



## Checklist

- ☐ Complete the required readings by Friday
- ☐ Post your "Dear Mrs. Cratchit" letter to the class blog located on the course menu by Friday
- ☐ Research, prepare, and post responses to your partner(s) letters **by Wednesday of Week 5 (next week)**
- ☐ Post the URLS of your finalized collection of 3 boards and your narrative to the appropriate forum in the class discussion board by Sunday.