



CEC READING LIBRARY • GRADE 4 • R3 CHALLENGE

A Christmas Carol

9 Chapters

Day 1–9

Q2 W25–W27

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: Mean Old Scrooge

VOCABULARY mean, old, hated, Christmas

Snow drifted down over the streets of London, but Ebenezer Scrooge did not notice the beauty. He sat in his cold office, counting his coins one by one. He kept the fire so small that it hardly warmed the room. He paid his worker, Bob Cratchit, very little, and he never shared a penny with anyone. He lived alone and had no friends at all. When people sang Christmas songs outside his door, he shouted at them to go away. ★ **Scrooge was mean.** He hated Christmas and thought it was a waste of time and money. Everyone in town was afraid of the cold, grumpy old man, and children crossed the street when they saw him coming.

THINK How big was Scrooge's fire?

Chapter 2: No to Everyone

VOCABULARY Christmas, selfish, cold, nephew

It was Christmas Eve, and the streets were full of happy people carrying gifts and singing. Scrooge's cheerful nephew, Fred, came to the office with a warm smile. "Come to dinner tomorrow, Uncle!" he said. "Humbug!" Scrooge replied, and he sent him away. Then two kind men asked him for money to help the poor. Scrooge told them he did not want to give anything. ★ **Scrooge was cold and very selfish.** He walked home alone through the dark streets, ate a small bowl of soup, and locked his door. His house was dim and chilly, without a single decoration. But that night, something very strange was about to happen.

THINK What did Scrooge call Fred's invitation?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Marley's Chains

VOCABULARY ghost, Marley, chains, money

That night, Scrooge sat by his tiny fire when he heard a strange clanking sound. Chains rattled on the stairs, and the door flew open. A pale ghost floated into the room. It was Jacob Marley, his old partner! Marley dragged long, heavy chains made of cash boxes and keys. "I made these chains in my life," the ghost moaned, "by being selfish." He warned Scrooge that three more ghosts would visit him that night. They would give him one chance to change. ★ **Scrooge cared only for money and nothing else.** He was frightened, and his hands trembled. Still, he told himself it was only a bad dream, and he hid under his blanket.

THINK What were the chains made of?

Chapter 4: The Ghost of the Past

VOCABULARY ghost, past, lonely, school

At one o'clock, a bright light filled the room. It was the Ghost of Christmas Past, glowing like a candle. "Come with me," it said. It took Scrooge's hand, and together they flew out the window and through the night. Soon they were in a quiet country school. Scrooge saw a lonely boy sitting by the fire, reading by himself while the other children went home. "That was me," Scrooge whispered. ★ **Three ghosts came.** The ghost then showed him a kind young woman he had loved, but he had chosen money over her. Tears rolled down Scrooge's wrinkled cheeks for the first time in many years.

THINK What did the ghost glow like?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: Cratchit Christmas

VOCABULARY present, poor, family, future

The Ghost of Christmas Present was a jolly giant in a green robe, with a torch full of light. He took Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's tiny house. The family was poor, but the room felt warm and full of love. Mrs. Cratchit cooked a small goose and a pudding, and everyone cheered as if it were a feast. Little Tim sat close to his father. He was sick, but he smiled and said, "God bless us, every one!" **★ Three ghosts showed him the truth.** Scrooge watched with a strange ache in his heart. He asked the ghost whether Tim would get better. The ghost said that the future depended on what people chose to do.

THINK What did the Ghost of the Present wear?

Chapter 6: A Quiet Grave

VOCABULARY future, begged, chance, Tim

The last ghost wore a long black cloak and did not speak a single word. It only pointed its long finger. In the future it showed, Scrooge saw people talking about a man who had died. Nobody was sad. Nobody cried. Even worse, the Cratchit home was quiet, and Tim's little crutch stood alone by the fire. Scrooge felt a cold shiver. At last, the ghost pointed to a gravestone, and Scrooge saw his own name on it. **★ Three ghosts showed Scrooge his past and dark future.** He fell to his knees and begged for another chance. "I will change," he cried. "I will be a better man!" He finally understood that his greed had destroyed everything.

THINK What did the last ghost wear?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: Merry Christmas!

VOCABULARY Christmas, window, shouted, changed

Scrooge woke up with a gasp. Sunlight was pouring through his window, and church bells were ringing! "It's Christmas Day!" he cried. "I am alive, and I have time!" He jumped out of bed, laughing like a child, and danced around the room in his nightshirt. He threw open the window and shouted to a boy in the street, "What day is it?" "Christmas Day, sir!" the boy answered. ★ **He changed completely.** Scrooge felt lighter than air, and a huge smile spread across his old face. People on the street could not believe their eyes and ears. The mean old man was gone, and a kind, joyful man had taken his place.

THINK What did the church bells do?

Chapter 8: The Biggest Turkey

VOCABULARY turkey, raise, generous, nephew

Scrooge hurried to the market and bought the biggest turkey in the shop. "Send it to Bob Cratchit's house," he told the delivery boy, "and don't say who it is from!" Then he went to Bob and said, "I am going to give you a raise, and I will help your family." Bob almost fell off his chair. In the afternoon, Scrooge went to his nephew's party. Fred welcomed him warmly, and Scrooge played games and laughed until his sides hurt. ★ **He changed and became a generous man.** He gave money to the poor, and wherever he went, he found that giving made him happier than getting. It was the happiest Christmas of his whole life.

THINK Why did Scrooge say "don't say who it is from"?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Never Too Late

VOCABULARY Tiny Tim, better, change, kind

Scrooge kept his promise. He did not stop being kind when Christmas ended. He paid for the best doctor and the best medicine for Tiny Tim, and soon the little boy grew strong and healthy. Scrooge became like a second father to him, and Tim rode on his shoulders through the snow. The people of London had once been afraid of the old miser, but now they waved and called out, "Good morning, Mr. Scrooge!" He always tipped his hat and smiled. ★ **It is never too late to change who you are.** Scrooge proved that anyone can change when they open their heart, and people said that nobody knew how to keep Christmas better than he did.

THINK How did people greet Scrooge in the end?