

Name _____



Bah, Humbug!

In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge is a man who despises Christmas. He calls it "humbug" and refuses to celebrate or even acknowledge the holiday's spirit. Scrooge's attitude toward Christmas reflects his overall view on life and human relationships. He believes that spending money or time on others is a waste and prefers to keep to himself. This selfish outlook makes him a lonely, bitter person who pushes everyone away.

At the start of the story, Scrooge shows his dislike for Christmas when his cheerful nephew, Fred, invites him to Christmas dinner. Scrooge rudely declines, questioning why Fred would marry for love when it brings no money. Scrooge also refuses to donate to charity, insisting that the poor should go to workhouses or prisons. His attitude reveals that he values money over kindness and sees no point in helping others.

Scrooge's disdain for Christmas is not just about the holiday—it is a sign of his lack of compassion and connection to others. He treats his clerk, Bob Cratchit, poorly by paying him very little and making him work in the cold. Scrooge does not care that Bob has a family to support, including his sick son, Tiny Tim. This behavior shows that Scrooge's "Bah, Humbug!" attitude is part of a larger problem. He sees people as tools for making money rather than as fellow human beings deserving of kindness and respect.

Everything changes when Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. Through these visits, Scrooge learns how his negative view of Christmas and life has hurt others and himself. He sees how he was once a happier, kinder person and how his greed has isolated him. The ghosts also show Scrooge the joy that others find in Christmas, even if they are poor, like the Cratchit family.

By the end of the story, Scrooge transforms into a man who loves Christmas and understands its true meaning. He becomes generous and caring, helping those in need and reconnecting with his family. Dickens uses Scrooge's initial hatred of Christmas to reveal his broader problems with human relationships, showing that it is never too late to change and embrace kindness.