

Name _____



Greed and Giving

In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the story explores the contrast between greed and generosity through the life of Ebenezer Scrooge. At the start of the novella, Scrooge is a miserly old man who values money above all else. He refuses to help others, even when he has more than enough to share. Scrooge turns away charity collectors, saying that workhouses and prisons are enough for the poor. He even treats his own clerk, Bob Cratchit, unfairly by paying him very little and making him work in the freezing cold.

The turning point in the story comes when Scrooge is visited by three ghosts. Each ghost teaches him a lesson about generosity and greed. The Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge his younger self, including moments when he valued relationships over wealth. Scrooge remembers losing his fiancée, Belle, because he chose money over love. This memory makes him realize how much his greed has cost him.

The Ghost of Christmas Present reveals how others live happily despite having very little. Scrooge sees the Cratchit family celebrating Christmas together with love and joy, even though they are poor. Tiny Tim, the youngest Cratchit, symbolizes hope and reminds Scrooge that compassion matters more than money. This visit helps Scrooge understand the power of generosity.

Finally, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge the dark future that awaits if he doesn't change. Scrooge sees his own lonely grave and learns that his greed will leave him unloved and forgotten. He also sees that Tiny Tim will die if Scrooge doesn't help the Cratchits. These visions inspire Scrooge to transform into a generous man.

By the end of the story, Scrooge becomes the opposite of his former self. He helps the Cratchit family, donates to charity, and spreads kindness wherever he goes. Dickens uses Scrooge's transformation to teach readers that greed leads to loneliness, while generosity creates happiness and connection.