

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Victorian Inequality

In *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, the author sheds light on the struggles of the poor in Victorian society and critiques the way the wealthy treated them. Ebenezer Scrooge, a wealthy but miserly man, cares only about his money and looks down on those less fortunate. Early in the story, he is asked to donate money to help the poor. Scrooge rudely refuses, questioning why he should help

others when there are already workhouses and prisons for the needy.

Through the visits of the three ghosts, Scrooge learns how social inequality affects people. The Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge to visit the Cratchit family, who work hard but struggle to make ends meet. Despite their poverty, they are kind and loving. Scrooge is especially moved by the sight of Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit's sickly son, who would not survive without proper care. The ghost also shows Scrooge two children named Ignorance and Want. They represent the consequences of neglecting the poor—ignorance leads to a lack of education, and want leads to suffering.

By the end of the story, Scrooge understands that his wealth gives him a responsibility to help others. He begins to share his money and resources, not only with the Cratchits but also with the community. Dickens uses Scrooge's transformation to highlight the importance of compassion and generosity in addressing social inequality. He shows that helping others brings joy to everyone involved.

Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* during a time when many people in England were struggling to survive. He hoped to inspire readers to show kindness to the less fortunate and push for a more fair and just society. Through Scrooge's story, Dickens reminds us that even small acts of generosity can make a big difference in the lives of others.