**Lesson 1 – The Ghost of Christmas Present**

**Starter**

If this is the answer, what could the question be?

1. Scrooge
2. Bob Cratchit
3. Capitalist
4. Fezziwig’s party
5. Philanthropic

**This is from when we meet The Ghost of Christmas Present**

"Come in!" exclaimed the Ghost. "Come in, and know me better, man."

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

"I am the Ghost of Christmas Present," said the Spirit. "Look upon me."

Scrooge reverently did so. It was clothed in one simple green robe, or mantle, bordered with white fur. This garment hung so loosely on the figure, that its capacious breast was bare, as if disdaining to be warded or concealed by any artifice. Its feet, observable beneath the ample folds of the garment, were also bare; and on its head it wore no other covering than a holly wreath, set here and there with shining icicles. Its dark brown curls were long and free; free as its genial face, its **sparkling eye**, its open hand, its **cheery voice**, its unconstrained demeanour, and its **joyful air**. Girded round its middle was an antique scabbard; but no sword was in it, and the ancient sheath was eaten up with rust.

1. How has Dickens presented the spirit? How has he made the spirit sound? (think about how he speaks and his appearance)
2. **Which other character does the spirit sound like? Why might Dickens have done this? (think outside of A Christmas Carol)**
3. How does Scrooge respond to the spirit?
4. What does The Ghost of Christmas Present represent/personify?
5. How does this spirit compare to The Ghost of Christmas Past?

**This is from when the spirit shows Scrooge the Cratchit family**

“And how did little Tim behave?” asked Mrs. Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity, and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart’s content.

“As good as gold,” said Bob, “and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. **He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.”**

Bob’s voice was tremulous when he told them this, and trembled more when he said that Tiny Tim was growing strong and hearty.

His active little crutch was heard upon the floor, and back came Tiny Tim before another word was spoken, escorted by his brother and sister to his stool before the fire.

1. What does the simile suggest about Tiny Tim?
2. **While Tiny Tim is at church he says that he hopes people see him and are reminded of the miracles that Jesus can perform.** What impression does this create of Tiny Tim? How might the reader respond to him? Why?
3. Why does Dickens repeat the word ‘little’ to describe Tim? Why does he call this character ‘Tiny Tim’?
4. What does the word ‘escorted’ suggest about his siblings feel about Tiny Tim?

Challenge: What social issues is Dickens trying to highlight by showing us how the Cratchits live?

**By this point in the novel, how is Scrooge feeling? How far into the transformation is he? Which events have prompted these changes the most? Mark it on the line and explain your reasons:**

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Misanthropic Happier, Nicer

Cruel Philanthropic

Why?

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