**A Christmas Carol**

**Read the extracts from ACC and answer the questions.**

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas.

1. Identify the following methods from this extract:

* Exclamative sentences
* Listing
* Simile
* Verbs

Challenge: Metaphor

Think about why Dickens has decided to describe Scrooge in this way – what point is he trying to get across to the reader? What is Scrooge like as a character?

Let’s explode these quotations:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Quotation (Evidence) | Explanation | Zoom word and connotations |
| Exclamative sentence: | This suggests that… | The noun/verb /adjective/ method shows that… |
| Listing: |  |  |
| Simile: |  |  |
| Verbs: |  |  |

Please complete this quiz in as much detail as possible:

The extracts from here to the end of the document are included on the quiz, but in case you need them separately, they are on this document too.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fex47Eck8wixKgoG5SSE4U2lUODkzUTdVQk40RFlYUlBISkFYUUJKWVFDTi4u>

**Extract from when Fred (Scrooge’s nephew) arrives to see Scrooge**

“A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!” cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge’s nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

“Bah!” said Scrooge, “Humbug!”

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge’s, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

“Christmas a humbug, uncle!” said Scrooge’s nephew. “You don’t mean that, I am sure?”

“I do,” said Scrooge. “Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.”

**A bit of context - Malthus Theory**

Dickens was disgusted with the writings of an economist named Malthus, a wealthy man, who argued that there would always be more people being born than there was food being produced, therefore resulting in unavoidable and catastrophic poverty and starvation. (Essentially there would never be enough food to feed everyone). In his pamphlet "The Crisis," Malthus supported the Poor Laws and the workhouses, arguing that any man unable to feed himself had no right to live, much less participate in the development of society. Dickens hints at Malthus in Stave One, when Scrooge echoes his views on overpopulation in his conversation with the charity workers.

 After reading this, what do you understand Malthus theory to mean? (it’s only called Malthus theory because it’s named after the man who invented it)

**With this bit of context in mind, this extract is when the charity men ask Scrooge for money:**

“Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude,” returned the gentleman, “a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?”

“Nothing!” Scrooge replied.

“You wish to be anonymous?”

“I wish to be left alone,” said Scrooge. “Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don’t make merry myself at Christmas and I can’t afford to make idle peoplemerry.I help to support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.”

“Many can’t go there; and many would rather die.”

“If they would rather die,” said Scrooge, **“**they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides—excuse me—I don’t know that.”

“But you might know it,” observed the gentleman.

“It’s not my business,” Scrooge returned. **“**It’s enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people’s. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!”