

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

How does Dickens make Scrooge seem less like a person and more like a climate?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Scrooge described as a force of cold
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Stave One
START	Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge!
END	To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge.
PASSAGE ID	sec-acc-01

THE MOVE

Read figurative language as characterization

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Dickens does not merely tell us that Scrooge is cold. He lets cold weather, frost, fog, and Scrooge's own body seem to merge until the man feels like a force of weather. That gives students a concrete way to see figurative language doing the work of characterization.

MARK

Circle every word that belongs to actual winter weather. Underline the places where Dickens transfers those weather words onto Scrooge himself. Put a star beside the comparison that makes Scrooge seem least human.

NOTICE

- Which descriptions could literally describe the weather outside, and which are being used to describe Scrooge?
- How does the repeated cold imagery change the way you imagine other people experiencing him?
- Where does Dickens cross the line from describing Scrooge as cold to making him feel like a climate?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Dickens make Scrooge seem less like a person and more like a climate? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Dickens make Scrooge seem less like a person and more like a climate? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Dickens makes Scrooge seem like a climate by transferring literal winter language—cold, frost, fog, chill—onto his body and effect on other people. Scrooge becomes something others have to endure rather than merely a man with an unpleasant personality.
EVIDENCE	Use one detail that could literally describe weather and one where that weather vocabulary is applied to Scrooge himself. The strongest evidence shows his coldness spreading outward into social space.
WATCH FOR	Do not merely identify a simile or metaphor. Explain how repeated weather imagery changes the reader's sense of Scrooge as a human presence.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

A Christmas Carol

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How does Dickens make Scrooge seem less like a person and more like a climate?

START ANCHOR	Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge!
END ANCHOR	To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance, was what the knowing ones call 'nuts' to Scrooge.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Circle every word that belongs to actual winter weather. Underline the places where Dickens transfers those weather words onto Scrooge himself. Put a star beside the comparison that makes Scrooge seem least human.
2. **NOTICE** - Which descriptions could literally describe the weather outside, and which are being used to describe Scrooge? How does the repeated cold imagery change the way you imagine other people experiencing him? Where does Dickens cross the line from describing Scrooge as cold to making him feel like a climate?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How does Dickens make Scrooge seem less like a person and more like a climate?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.