

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

What does Marley's chain make visible about responsibility?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes

Marley's chain

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	I wear the chain I forged in life
END	The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!
PASSAGE ID	sec-acc-02

THE MOVE

Turn metaphor into a moral argument

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Marley's chain turns an invisible moral history into something Scrooge can see and hear. Each link stands for choices Marley made repeatedly, so the supernatural image becomes an argument that responsibility is accumulated through ordinary actions.

MARK

Box the words Marley uses to explain what the chain is made of. Then underline every phrase that connects the chain to choices he made while alive. Star the line that makes Scrooge understand he is building a chain of his own.

NOTICE

- Why is the chain made from business objects instead of something more obviously frightening?
- What does the chain suggest about the difference between one bad act and a life built from repeated choices?
- At what point does Marley’s punishment stop being only about Marley and become a warning about Scrooge?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Marley's chain make visible about responsibility? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Marley’s chain make visible about responsibility? 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	Marley's chain makes accumulated responsibility visible. Its links are built from the objects and habits of his business life, suggesting that punishment is not one sudden sentence but the material result of repeated choices.
EVIDENCE	Use the description of what the chain is made of and Marley's explanation that he forged it in life. Strong answers connect ordinary business objects to moral consequence.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat the chain only as a spooky symbol. The important idea is how metaphor turns an invisible history of choices into something physical and measurable.
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

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What does Marley's chain make visible about responsibility?

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END ANCHOR	The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!

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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** - Box the words Marley uses to explain what the chain is made of. Then underline every phrase that connects the chain to choices he made while alive. Star the line that makes Scrooge understand he is building a chain of his own.
2. **NOTICE** - Why is the chain made from business objects instead of something more obviously frightening? What does the chain suggest about the difference between one bad act and a life built from repeated choices? At what point does Marley's punishment stop being only about Marley and become a warning about Scrooge?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does Marley's chain make visible about responsibility?
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.