

Five key things about Scrooge in Staves 4 to 5

1. In Stave Four, Scrooge **no longer questions** the **Ghosts' message**.
2. He is shown the **contempt and fear** people have for him.
3. He is made to confront his **own death**.
4. He **completes his transformation** at the start of Stave Five.
5. He **learns the lesson** that **Jacob Marley** set out to teach him.

What do we learn about Scrooge in Staves Four to Five?

- Scrooge had no idea how badly he was regarded by business people in the City.
- He did not realise people hated him so much they would steal from his dead body.
- He is genuinely horrified at Tiny Tim's death, showing us his ability to have strong feelings.
- He laughs as he gets caught up in his stockings, showing he has a sense of humour.
- He can accept other people laughing at him but realises that **'nothing ever happened'** that did not make someone laugh.

How does Scrooge change?

- Scrooge becomes a good employer or **'master'**.
- He now enjoys being with people – he happily changes his mind and spends Christmas at Fred's.
- He makes a generous donation to the charity collection and apologises for his earlier unkindness.
- He becomes a full part of his family and of the Cratchits.



Five key quotations

1. Scrooge's new awareness: **'Avarice, hard dealing, gripping cares? They have brought him to a rich end, truly!'**
2. His promise to the Ghost: **'The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me!'**
3. His humour and fresh start in life: **'I don't know anything. I am quite a baby.'**
4. His changed behaviour: **'to Tiny Tim, who did NOT die, he was a second father'.**
5. He is happy and content: **'His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him.'**

Note it!

Scrooge repeatedly refuses to look at the body of the dead man in Stave Four. Dickens builds suspense, delaying Scrooge's final moment of change, as he wonders who could be so hated that his death causes so little concern for those around him.

Exam focus

How can I write about Scrooge in Staves Three to Five? AO1 AO2

You can comment on how Dickens presents Scrooge's reaction to seeing his own death.

In Stave Four, Dickens presents Scrooge as he watches people react to the death of 'someone' who was greedy and unkind. Scrooge learns important lessons from this and understands that *avarice*, or *greed for wealth*, has brought him to a 'rich' end. 'Rich end' here is a pun on the two meanings of the word 'rich', both as someone with money, but also as the Victorian slang word for 'terrible' or 'shocking'.

Topic sentence refers to specific point in novel

Relevant embedded quotation

Language analysis

Developed comment

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about Scrooge in Staves Four and Five. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Dickens shows how Scrooge's behaviour becomes much kinder through the description of Scrooge's relationship with Tiny Tim, who

Five key things about the theme of responsibility

1. Dickens believed that we are all responsible for the **health and happiness** of the people around us.
2. Although there were **laws and charities** helping the poor in Victorian England, Dickens felt they did not do enough.
3. Marley's Ghost is the **first character** to explain to Scrooge the importance of taking responsibility for others with his statement, **'Mankind was my business.'**
4. The **Ghosts demonstrate** to Scrooge all the ways he is responsible for other people's welfare, beginning with the Cratchits.
5. Characters such as Fred and Fezziwig show that you can **increase your own happiness** when you take responsibility for other people.



When do people show responsibility in the novel?

- The charity collectors take some responsibility for the plight of the London poor and collect money to help them.
- Fan takes responsibility for her lonely brother's misery asking their father if Scrooge can come home from school.
- Fezziwig takes responsibility for his workers, ensuring their workplace is clean and bright and that they are happy and valued.
- The Cratchits take responsibility for each other's welfare.
- It's too late for ghosts like Marley to take responsibility for the less well-off and they are punished and **'inexpressibly sorrowful'** over this.

How does Scrooge show he takes responsibility for those around him?

- He donates a large sum of money to make up for his past meanness.
- He ensures the Cratchits have a happy Christmas by sending round a **'prize Turkey'**, even paying for a cab to carry it.
- He improves Bob Cratchit's working conditions.
- He becomes a good friend to all.

Five key quotations

1. Responsibility to others at Christmas: **'a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time'** (Fred).
2. Marley's Ghost's responsibilities: **'Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance'**.
3. Employers' responsibilities: **'He has the power ... to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil'** (Scrooge on Fezziwig).
4. Responsibility to improve: **'I will not shut out the lessons that they teach'** (Scrooge).
5. Responsibility for others: **'I'll raise your salary, and endeavour to assist your struggling family'** (Scrooge to Bob Cratchit).

Note it!

Scrooge argues that by paying taxes which fund the building of prisons and workhouses in their **'useful course'**, he is taking responsibility for the poor. Dickens repeatedly shows that this belief is incorrect, particularly when he introduces the child-like figures of 'Ignorance and Want'.

Exam focus

How does Dickens explore responsibility? AO1

You can write about Fred's positive attitudes to other people.

Dickens explores the key idea of responsibility by contrasting Fred's attitudes to other people with Scrooge's. Fred loves Christmas partly because he sees it as a time when people are more 'charitable' towards each other, both in terms of gifts and donations as well as being 'kind' and 'forgiving'. This behaviour reflects his views on taking responsibility for each other's welfare and feelings. Scrooge, in contrast, sees Christmas as a time of financial loss.

- Overview of theme
- Embedded quotations
- Link to theme
- Comparison of characters

Now you try!

Finish this paragraph about responsibility. Use one of the quotations from the list.

Dickens shows that Scrooge has an opportunity for taking personal responsibility by helping the Cratchits