

Revising the plot and characters of 'A Christmas Carol'



What are the titles of each Stave?

Stave One

Stave Two

Stave Three

Stave Four

Stave Five

Stave One

Marley's Ghost

Stave Two

The First of Three Spirits

Stave Three

The Second of Three Spirits

Stave Four

The Last of the Spirits

Stave Five

The End of It

Watch the [animation](#) to recap the plot



When *A Christmas Carol* was first published, Dickens added descriptive heading to the start of each section to summarise its contents.

Look at the headings below, which have been placed in the wrong order. Put them into the right Stave and the right sequence.

Stave 1 (5)	Stave 2 (5)	Stave 3 (6)	Stave 4 (4)	Stave 5 (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Shops • A Delightful Boy • Poor Tiny Tim! • Over Land and Sea • Ignorance and Want 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrooge Reclaimed by Christmas • The Name of the Dead Man • God Bless You, Merry Gentlemen! • Scrooge's School-Days • Tiny Tim and Mr Scrooge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghouls • A Death Has Occurred • Expecting a Third Visitor • Out Upon Merry Christmas! • Scrooge's Old Love • Games at Forfeits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrooge's Fireside • The Ghost • At Bob Cratchit's • The Ghost's Departure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another Unearthly Visitor • The Fezziwig Ball

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- Jacob Marley: p3-4, p15-26
- Fred: p6-9, p39, p71-78, p107
- Cratchits: p13-14, p44, p59-68, p94-98, p109
- Fan: p37-39
- Belle: p44-50
- Ghost of Christmas Past: p30-50
- Ghost of Christmas Present: p53-80
- Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come: p81-100



How do the ghosts help to transform Scrooge?

- p19 'he was still incredulous' (of Marley)
- p32 'Scrooge expressed himself much obliged, but could not help thinking that a night of unbroken rest would have been more conducive to that end' (of his welfare)
- p54 'Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it'
- p82 'I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart'
- p100 'Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life'

Study Links

- BBC Bitesize Study Guide [here](#)
- BBC News article about the origins of the novel [here](#)
- Sparknotes Study Guide [here](#)
- Shmoop Study Guide [here](#)
- Use [these](#) Teacher's Notes for re-reading the novel

The origins of *A Christmas Carol*



The screenshot shows the British Library website interface. At the top left, the 'BRITISH LIBRARY' logo is visible. A navigation menu includes 'Catalogues', 'Collections', 'Discover', 'Services', 'Visiting', 'About', and 'Information for...'. A search bar at the top right contains the text 'Search our website' and 'Our website'. The main header reads 'Discovering Literature: Romantics and Victorians'. Below this is a secondary navigation menu with 'Home', 'Authors', 'Works', 'Themes', 'Articles', 'Videos', 'Collection items', 'Teaching resources', and 'About the project'. The central image is a woodcut-style illustration of an elderly man with a white beard and a turban-like head covering, sitting in a chair and gesturing with his hands. To his right, a woman in a white dress and bonnet stands near a table with a lit candle. The background is filled with faint, overlapping text, suggesting a library or a room filled with books. Below the illustration, the title 'The origins of A Christmas Carol' is displayed, along with a search bar containing the text 'Search Romantics and Vic' and 'What are you looking for?'.

Watch this [video](#):

- What do we learn about Charles Dickens' motives for writing *A Christmas Carol*?

The origins of *A Christmas Carol*

What do we learn
about Charles
Dickens' motives
for writing *A
Christmas Carol*?

In 1843, Dickens was horrified by reading a Government report. It was, in fact, the second parliamentary report - The Parliamentary Commission on the Employment of Women and Children, showing the horrific conditions under which very young children were made to work under ground or to work tremendously long hours in appalling conditions in factories. Dickens read this and he described himself as being "perfectly stricken down by it" and he determined that he would strike, as he said, "the heaviest blow in my power" on behalf of these victims of the Industrial Revolution and in October 1843, he was giving a talk in Manchester. It was in the course of giving this talk in this large industrial city, that the idea came to him that the best thing he could do by way of calling public attention to the horror of this report, would be by writing a story, rather than an article - "Something that would strike the heaviest blow in my power", as he said, "something that would come down with sledgehammer force" - and this was the conception of the Christmas Carol, beginning, of course, with the conception of Scrooge - that wonderful name, Scrooge - a combination of screw and gouge.

Context Links

Dickens and the Construction of Christmas (article):

<http://www.historytoday.com/geoffrey-rowell/dickens-and-construction-christmas>

Unabridged audiobook read by Tim Curry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glOe8tfDQag>

Abridged BBC School Radio version:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/subjects/english/a_christmas_carol

British Library biography of Charles Dickens:

<http://www.bl.uk/people/charles-dickens>

Universal Teacher guide to the text:

<http://www.universalteacher.org.uk/prose/achristmascarol.htm>