



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL
THE DICTIONARY GAME**

Grade Levels: 3-5, with adjustment K-2

OBJECTIVES

- Students will become familiar with key vocabulary words from the Alley production of **A Christmas Carol**

MATERIALS

- Word bank (attached)
- Blank pieces of paper, or small white boards
- Erasers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, or dry erase markers

PROCEDURE

1. Select desired words from attached bank.
2. Pass out several blank pieces of paper, or small white boards to each student.
3. The teacher reads aloud a word and the students must write a made-up definition on their page or board – the more “real-sounding” the better. Keep them secret.
4. Students turn in their pages or boards to the teacher, who also has a copy of the actual definition of the word.
5. The teacher reads all the definitions aloud once so everyone can hear them. On the second reading, students must vote on which definition is actually from the dictionary.
6. Students score one point for each person who votes for their definition and two points if they can guess the actual dictionary definition.
7. The teacher continues choosing words and reading the students’ definitions, and the students continue to vote on which definition is real.
8. The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

WORD BANK

- **Anonymous:** not named or identified
- **Appalling:** very bad in a way that causes fear, shock, or disgust
- **Apparition:** a ghost or spirit of a dead person
- **Bedlam:** a notorious madhouse in London which no longer exists
- **Benevolence:** kindness and generosity
- **Cantankerous:** often angry and annoyed
- **Destitute:** extremely poor
- **Dismal:** showing or causing unhappiness or bad feelings
- **Farthing:** an old British coin worth one quarter of a penny
- **Fate:** the things that will happen to a person or thing, the future that someone or something will have
- **Fettered:** prevented from moving or acting freely, chained down
- **Forbearance:** tolerance or patience
- **Foreclosure:** the process by which a bank takes back property because the money owed for it has not been paid
- **Fortified:** strengthened or secured
- **Gruel:** thin and flavorless oatmeal
- **Gumption:** courage and confidence
- **Homage:** public honor or respect for a person or idea
- **Humbug:** something made-up or meant to deceive
- **Keenly:** strongly, powerfully
- **Liabile:** likely to do something
- **Liberality:** the quality of being generous
- **Multitude:** a great number of something
- **Odious:** causing hatred or strong dislike; offensive
- **Parliament:** the group of people who are responsible for making the laws in the British system of government
- **Penury:** extreme poverty
- **Ponderous:** slow or awkward because of weight or size
- **Reclamation:** the act of getting back something that had been lost or taken
- **Shilling:** British currency coin
- **Stingy:** not liking or wanting to give or spend money
- **Surplus:** an amount that is more than what is needed
- **Wage:** payment for service
- **Workhouse:** a public place for the very poor and homeless to live where they must earn their stay through hard labor