

A Christmas Carol- Critical Thinking Questions

Post-Show Activity- Grades 3-5 (with adjustments, K-2 and 6-12)

Objectives

- Students will thoroughly understand the themes of *A Christmas Carol* through discussion of its social issues.

NOTE: This activity has been aligned with TEKS and [*Universal Design for Learning*](#). TEKS can be found at the end of this document.

Questions

1. What events from your childhood, good or bad, are most memorable to you? Do you think they shaped you into who you are today? How might different life events shape someone else?
2. Did Charles Dickens's childhood influence who he became? What about his writing? Were can you see elements of his life in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. Where did your values come from? What people, events, or ideas most influenced the development of your values? Why? Do you think everyone has access to those same resources?
4. How might level of education, financial means, and exposure to pop culture influence a person's values?
5. What is poverty? How do you think poverty happens? Can you think of any recent events in our country that caused a large increase of people in poverty? Why might that have been?
6. Does a person's access to education depend on money? Why or why not? Where in Houston or elsewhere in the country is this most clear? If there is a problem, how do you think it can be fixed?
7. Do you think there is still conflict today between the rich and the poor like there was in Charles Dickens's time? Has it made any progress? If so, how? If the conflict still exists, where is it clearest? Consider countries, industries, etc.
8. Is Charles Dickens the only author to write for change? Can you think of any others? If so, what did they try to change and what changes did they hope to make? Was their writing effective in causing change? Why or why not?
9. Why do you think Charles Dickens chose to write about Christmas? How do you think people would celebrate Christmas today if *A Christmas Carol* had never been written? Why do you think the story is so popular, even today?
10. *A Christmas Carol* is a story with a moral. What is a moral? Why are moral stories written? Have you read any other stories that also have morals? How do these stories explain the moral? What do all the main characters in moral stories have in common?
11. Do you think fear is an important part of *A Christmas Carol* and Scrooge's change? Would Scrooge have changed if he hadn't been scared by the ghosts and his future? Can you think of any other ways that Scrooge could have been made to think about his life? Would a different method be as effective as using ghosts and fear?
12. How would we view Scrooge in modern day? As a bad person, or just a good business man? How does this reflect how our values as a community have or have not shifted since the time of *A Christmas Carol*?

Notes for UDL alignment: To provide multiple ways of expressing understanding, consider letting students act or physicalize their responses. You can also utilize Think-Pair-Share to provide additional solo and partner processing time.

TEKS

English Language Arts and Reading, Grades 3-5

1 (A) listen actively, ask relevant questions to clarify information, and make pertinent comments;

6 (B) generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information;

6 (G) evaluate details read to determine key ideas;

Social Studies, Grade 3

1 (A) describe how individuals, events, and ideas have changed communities, past and present;

Social Studies, Grade 4

19 (E) identify different points of view about an issue, topic, historical event, or current event;

Social Studies, Grade 5

20 (B) explain how examples of art, music, and literature reflect the times during which they were created.