

A Christmas Carol | What If Scenarios

Post-Show Activity | Grades K-5

Alignment

- Learning Objective
 - Students will identify key plot points and turning moments in *A Christmas Carol*.
 - Students will use imagination to create new versions of Scrooge's story through drawing and short writing.
 - Students will practice critical and creative thinking by responding to "What if...?" prompts.

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

Materials

- White board or chart paper and markers
- What If Scenarios worksheet (included)
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- *A Christmas Carol* story map handout (included)
- Optional: digital drawing tablet or collage materials

Step 1 | Review the Story

- Review the story map handout (included). "Let's remember what happened in the play. Who are the three ghosts that visit Scrooge, and what do they show him?"
- Record answers on the board or chart paper, using 1-2 words and/or images.
 - Use a simple timeline with visuals of each ghost. Label Past – Present – Future clearly.
- For K-2
 - Focus on recalling one main idea per ghost.
- For 3-5
 - Encourage summarizing cause and effect ("Because Scrooge was rude, the ghost showed him..").

Step 2 | Explore "What if?" Scenarios

- "What if Scrooge's story changed? What if the ghosts showed him something different?"
- Model a "What if" idea on the board:
 - Have students tableau, or draw on the board, "Scrooge goes to Freddie's".
 - Encourage students to offer details about how this would change this story.

- Reinforce there are no wrong answers – all ideas are welcome in the “What if” world.

Notes for UDL alignment: Allow students to verbally or physically process their ideas before drawing. Provide visual supports for the “what if” scenario prompts on the board.

Step 3 | Independent Practice

- Pass out the “What if” scenarios worksheets to the students.
- Read each “what if” statement aloud.
- Students complete their drawings and sentences independently or in pairs.
 - For K-2, discuss one prompt as a class before students draw.
 - For 3-5, encourage students to generate their own “What if” scenarios in addition to the provided ones.

Notes for UDL alignment: Keep the past-present-future visuals on display for reference. Offer sensory supports – quiet music, flexible seating, or fidget tools to help keep focus during drawing time.

Step 4 | Reflection and Sharing

- Have a few students share one scenario each, or display them in a gallery walk format.
- Reflective questions for think-pair-share:
 - “How did your story change Scrooge’s feelings?”
 - “What lesson did Scrooge learn in your version?” Invite volunteers to share one of their boxes. They can share the image, the sentence, or enlist help to show in a tableau (like the example in the introduction).

Notes for UDL alignment: For a gallery walk, students can use sticky notes to provide feedback with “I notice” or “I wonder” stems.

Demonstration of Learning

- Grades K–2
 - Students describe or draw one alternate scene showing a change in Scrooge’s behavior or emotion.
 - Students identify one feeling word for Scrooge in their version (e.g., *happy, kind, worried*).
- Grades 3–5
 - Students create 2–3 drawings with accompanying sentences that show cause and effect of changed choices.
 - Students explain how their “What if” story shifts the theme or lesson of *A Christmas Carol*.

TEKS

- ELA K-5:
 - (1A-C), (2A-D), (3B), (6A) – Develop listening and speaking skills; apply comprehension strategies; express ideas through creative writing and drawing.
- Theatre K-5:
 - (1A-C), (2A-C), (4A-B) – Imagine and express characters, settings, and emotions through storytelling and visual interpretation.
- Art K-5:
 - (1A-C), (2A-C), (3A-B), (4A-B) – Express ideas using imagination and observation; use art elements to communicate feelings and stories.
- Social Studies K-2:
 - (3A-B) – Distinguish between past, present, and future; identify how stories teach lessons and show change over time.

What would happen if...

...Scrooge never met Marley's Ghost?

Scrooge in the future...

What would happen if...

...Scrooge was a poor man?

Scrooge in the future...

What would happen if...

...Scrooge did not see his grave?

Scrooge in the future...

A Christmas Carol | Story Map

Post-Show Resource for K-12

Title

- *A Christmas Carol*

Author and Playwright

- Charles Dickens
- Adapted by Rob Melrose

Characters

- List of Main Characters:
 - Ebenezer Scrooge – A cold-hearted, miserly businessman who learns compassion and generosity.
 - Jacob Marley – Scrooge’s deceased business partner, condemned to wander the earth in chains.
 - Bob Cratchit – Scrooge’s loyal, underpaid clerk and loving father of Tiny Tim.
 - Tiny Tim – Bob Cratchit’s kind and sickly son, whose innocence symbolizes hope and faith.
 - Fred – Scrooge’s cheerful nephew who represents the warmth and joy of Christmas.
 - Belle – Scrooge’s former fiancée, lost to his obsession with wealth.
 - The Ghost of Christmas Past – A glowing, childlike spirit who reveals Scrooge’s memories.
 - The Ghost of Christmas Present – A jovial giant who shows the world’s current joys and sorrows.
 - The Ghost of Christmas Future – A silent, foreboding figure who shows Scrooge his fate if he does not change.
- Supporting Characters
 - Mrs. Cratchit, The Fezziwigs, Ignorance and Want, Charity Workers, Townspeople, and the Cratchit Children.

Character descriptions and printable worksheets are available on Alley Re-Sourced.

Setting

- Location
 - Victorian London — from bustling city streets to Scrooge’s cold office, his gloomy home, and the vibrant Cratchit household.
- Time Period
 - 1840s (Victorian Era, during England’s Industrial Revolution).
- Description of the Setting

- The story shifts between the grim urban environment of London and scenes that reflect warmth and transformation — such as Fezziwig's lively warehouse, the Cratchits' cozy home, and ghostly dreamscapes that visualize Scrooge's emotional journey.

Plot

- Exposition
 - Scrooge is introduced as a greedy, isolated man who despises Christmas and human connection. We meet his clerk Bob Cratchit and nephew Fred, who try to share kindness with him, but he dismisses them as fools.
- Rising Action
 - Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his late partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him to change his ways or suffer a similar fate. Three Spirits then visit Scrooge: the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future.
- Climax
 - The Ghost of Christmas Future reveals Scrooge's lonely death and the suffering of Tiny Tim. Horrified, Scrooge realizes the cost of his greed and begs for a chance to change.
- Falling Action
 - Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning, overjoyed to find he is still alive. He buys the Cratchits a turkey, donates to charity, and reconciles with Fred.
- Resolution
 - Scrooge becomes a generous, kind man who embodies the spirit of Christmas all year long, declaring, 'I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.'

Types of Conflict

- Character vs. Self
 - Scrooge struggles with his guilt, regret, and fear of change.
- Character vs. Society
 - Scrooge's values conflict with the compassionate ideals of his community.
- Character vs. Supernatural
 - Scrooge faces the ghosts who confront him with truths from his past, present, and future.

Major Themes

- The possibility of redemption and personal transformation.
- The power of empathy, generosity, and community.
- Social justice and Dickens's critique of poverty and inequality.
- The spirit of Christmas as a symbol of renewal and compassion.