

A Christmas Carol | Meet the Authors

Pre-Show Activity | Grades 6-12

Alignment

- Learning Objective
 - Students analyze how the author's life and context can influence their writing.
- Demonstration of Learning
 - Students create a written, visual, or performance-based response connecting the experiences and influences of Charles Dickens and Rob Melrose on Alley's *A Christmas Carol*.

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

Materials

- Alley Re-Sourced, projected or printed to share with the class.
- Access to quick research tools (print or web).
- Tools for notes (pen and paper or digital).
- Venn Diagram template (included).

Introduction

- Activate prior knowledge:
 - "How can knowing about an author or adaptor change how we understand a story?"
 - Invite students to brainstorm what they already know about the story and the author(s).

Step 1 | Research

- With the class, review the "Meet the Authors" section on Alley Re-Sourced.
- With the class, watch this video about Rob Melrose's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.
 - <https://vimeo.com/778964779>
- Encourage students to review the information and find additional resources to discover the following about each author.
 - What is the author's background?
 - What are some key details about the author's time period?
 - What are the author's goals in telling this story?
- Add notes to the Venn Diagram
 - Students can add notes individually or in pairs to the included template.
 - Students can work with a group and add notes to an area in the classroom designated for each section: Melrose, Dickens, Both.

Notes for UDL alignment: Consider allowing students to choose their method of expression: filling out the template, presenting, creating a digital version, etc.

Step 2 | Sharing and Feedback

- Have students reflect on their findings using “Connect – Extend – Challenge” Artful Thinking Routine.
 - How does this connect to what I already knew?
 - How does this extend or deepen my thinking?
 - What challenges or questions do I have now?
- Students can respond in writing, small groups, or through a short tableau showing their new “connection” or “challenge.”

TEKS

- Theatre I-IV: (1H), (4A)(4B) – Analyze historical and cultural influences on theatre; understand collaboration among artistic partners.
- ELA 6–12: (8) Analyze author’s craft and purpose; (11E-F) Synthesize and evaluate information from multiple sources.

A Christmas Carol | Meet the Authors

Pre-Show Activity | Grades 6-12

Venn Diagram

