

The Novel:

- Written in 1843.
- Published in weekly instalments in a newspaper.
- Some suggestion that the Cratchits are partly autobiographical.
- Full title was *A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas.*
- Genre of an allegory about morality and conforming to the Victorian Gothic traditions.
- Set in London in the 1840s.

The Author:

- Charles Dickens.
- Born in 1812 in London.
- Father imprisoned for debt.
- Politically vocal about society being responsible for supporting the poor.
- Grew up in relative poverty in a small house in London.
- 5 siblings who appear to correspond with the Cratchit children.
- A young sickly brother known as 'Tiny Fred'.

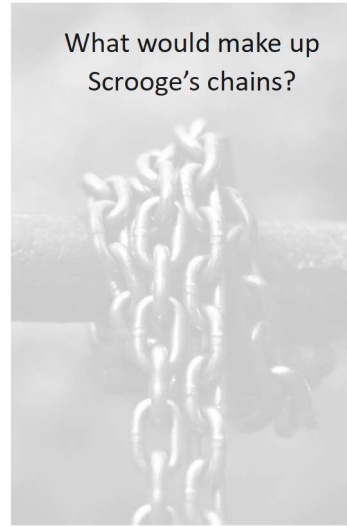
Context:

- Written and set in Victorian London.
- 'Poor commission' was created in 1833 and led to the creation of the 'Poor Law Amendment Act' which had significant clauses:
 - No able-bodied poor individual to receive assistance except from the workhouse.
 - Workhouses should be built in every parish.
 - Each Parish must collect 'Poor Rates' and send these along with reports to the central commission.
 - Conditions in Workhouses were legislated to be very harsh in order to discourage people seeking help.
- Victorian England was still extremely religious and believed that their actions in this life would have an impact on their souls for eternity.
- Scientific enquiry was becoming increasingly important.
- There was an emerging middle class.
- Psychology and the science of the mind were also increasingly important.
- 50% of women and 33% of men could not read or write.

*Why do you think Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*?*



What would make up Scrooge's chains?

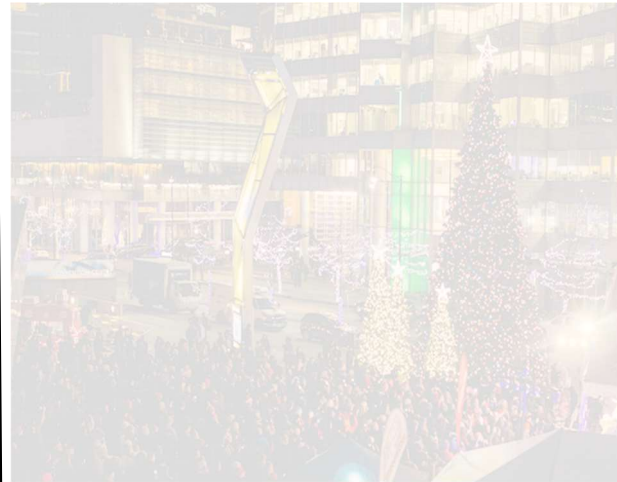


Audience Reception

THEN



NOW



Character Context

Ebenezer Scrooge



Jacob Marley



Fred



Bob Cratchit



Tiny Tim



Ghost of Christmas Past



Ghost of Christmas Present



Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

