



# Classroom Connections

For teachers and students grades K - 5



## In the Classroom

A *Christmas Carol* and this Classroom Connections Study Guide are produced in support of the teaching of: the Language Arts, History, Geography, Character Development, Music, and Theater



## At the Library

[A Christmas Carol: A Young Reader's Edition of the Classic Holiday Tale](#), by Charles Dickens

[Christmas Ghost Stories](#), by Charles Dickens

[Great Expectations](#), by Charles Dickens

[Oliver Twist](#), by Charles Dickens



## On the Web

**A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Electronic Text Center, UVA Library**

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DicChri.html>

**A Christmas Carol Quotes**

[http://www.litquotes.com/quote\\_title\\_resp.php?TName=A%20Christmas%20Carol](http://www.litquotes.com/quote_title_resp.php?TName=A%20Christmas%20Carol)

**ReadWriteThink Unit Plan**

**Beyond the Story: A Dickens of a Party**

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/beyond-story-dickens-party-238.html>

**Squidoo – Lesson Plans (and free downloadable e-book) for Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**

<http://www.squidoo.com/Dickens-Christmas-Carol>

# A Christmas Carol

Book by Steve Perigard Music and lyrics by Paul Deiss



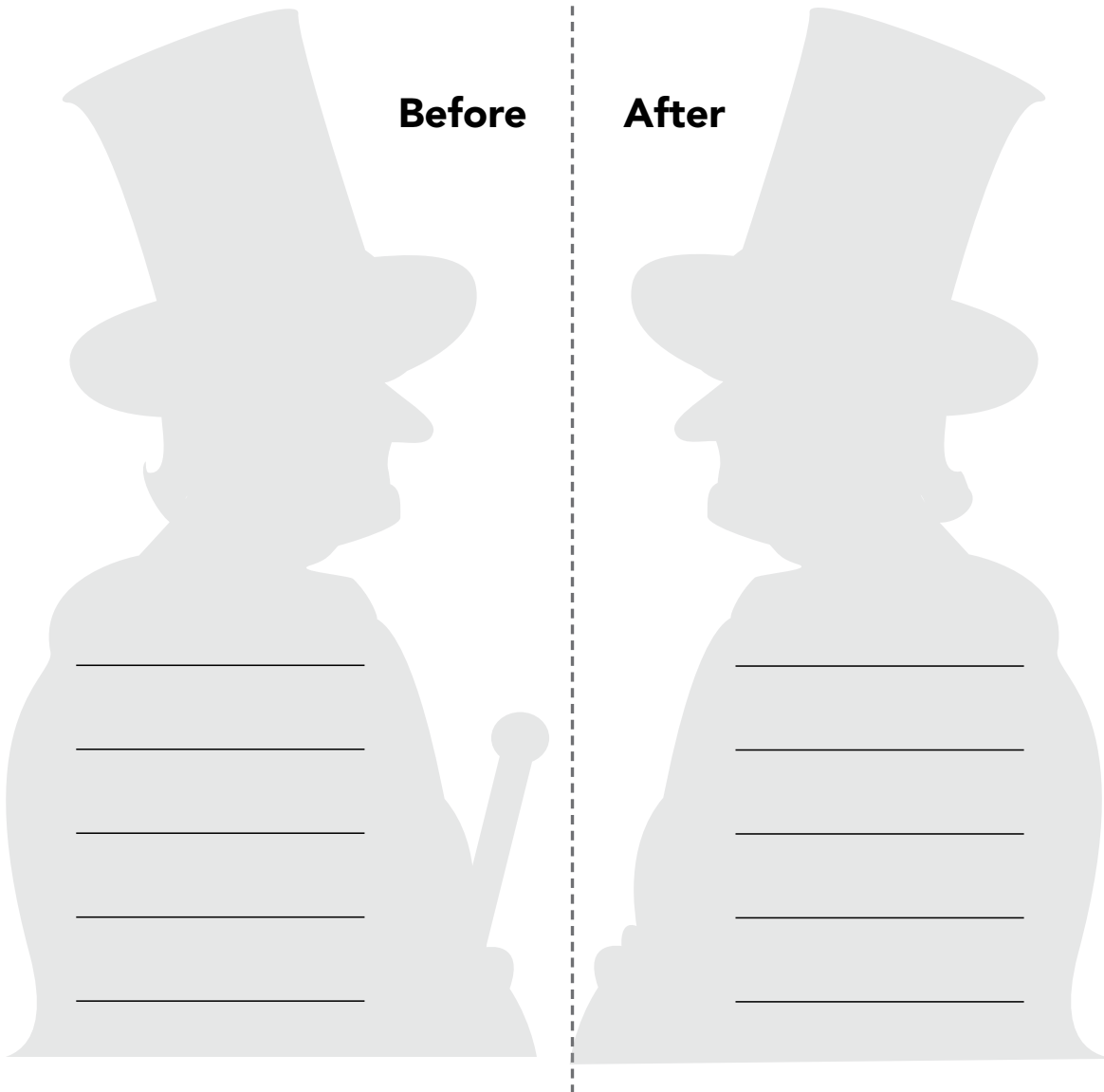
**Play Synopsis:** Based upon the famous classic by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* is a heartwarming story of the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge from a greedy, heartless miser to a generous, loving man. When the play opens, Scrooge is in his counting house in London. He is a "squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" Three ghostly visits – from the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future – leave an indelible impression on Ebenezer. Filled with love and the true spirit of the Christmas season, he begins to change his selfish ways and open his heart to those around him. Delight in this classic tale of Ebenezer, the ghosts, Bob Cratchet, and Tiny Tim. Theatre IV brings them all to life on stage in this lively and heartwarming musical performance.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Even today, the word "Scrooge" is used in the United States, the United Kingdom, and beyond, to describe someone who is overly miserly, or always glum and complaining.

# A Change of Character

Throughout the play, Ebenezer Scrooge's personality changes a lot.

Read the traits listed in the box on the right. Choose at least five traits that describe Ebenezer Scrooge at the beginning of the play, and at least five traits that describe Ebenezer Scrooge at the end of the play. Use a dictionary to help.



## Character Traits

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| arrogant    | jealous     |
| bold        | just        |
| bored       | kind        |
| brave       | lonely      |
| cautious    | merry       |
| civil       | mischievous |
| confident   | miserable   |
| considerate | miserly     |
| cooperative | modest      |
| courteous   | negative    |
| disdainful  | petty       |
| determined  | polite      |
| eager       | respectful  |
| envious     | rude        |
| exhausted   | sad         |
| fair        | selfish     |
| focused     | selfless    |
| friendly    | shy         |
| frightened  | sneaky      |
| gentle      | spiteful    |
| giddy       | stingy      |
| giving      | sympathetic |
| glum        | tolerant    |
| greedy      | thoughtful  |
| happy       | timid       |
| helpful     | tricky      |
| honest      | trustworthy |
| honorable   | unhappy     |
| humble      | unpleasant  |
| inquisitive | unwilling   |

**Think about it** What do Ebenezer Scrooge's possessions say about his personality? What types of things does he spend time with at the beginning of the play? What does he learn about his possessions from the spirits that visit him?

# Character Acrostic

An **acrostic** is a type of poem that describes something (in this case a character from the play *A Christmas Carol*) by using each of the letters in the word as the beginning of a line of poetry.

For example, an acrostic about America might read:

**A**pple Pie from ear to ear!  
**M**ajesty in its purple mountains  
**E**asy to love  
**R**evolutionary men set us free  
**I**ndependent from any other nation.  
**C**aring people live here  
**A**merica is a wonderful nation!



## On the Web

For resources on sharing and creating poetry with children, check out:  
[www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)



## Writing Poetry

Write your own acrostic about your favorite character from *A Christmas Carol*.

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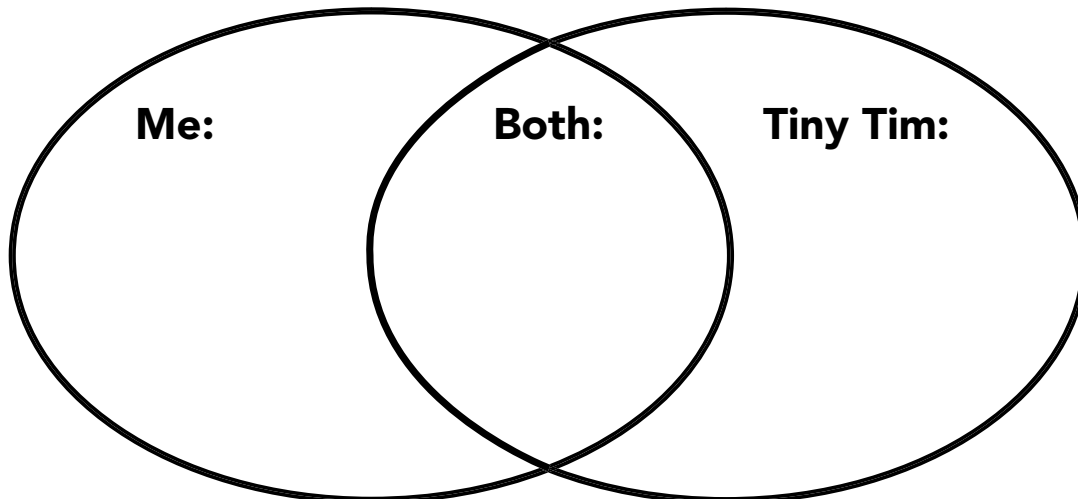
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## Challenge

Using the Venn diagram on the left, compare Tiny Tim's character traits with yours. How are you alike? How are you different?



## THEATRE IV

114 West Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23220  
1.800.235.8687  
www.TheatreIV.org

### Theatre IV Presents...

*A Christmas Carol*  
Based on the story by  
Charles Dickens

### Theatre IV

Bruce Miller,  
*Artistic Director*

Phil Whiteway,  
*Managing Director*

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# Cues at the Theatre

People who work on musical plays like *A Christmas Carol* need to know all about the following:

**Playwright:** (n.) a person who writes a play

**Play:** (n.) a story acted out with dialogue

**Adapted:** (v.) changed to fit a new use or situation (such as a story that was in a book being adapted to become a play)

**Musical:** (n.) a play that includes songs

**Dialogue:** (n.) words spoken by the characters in a play

**Lyrics:** (n.) words of a song

**Using the list above, fill in the correct word:**

A \_\_\_\_\_ that uses music is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Actors in a play speak words called \_\_\_\_\_ and sing \_\_\_\_\_ of a song.

The person who writes a play is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

Often, a play is \_\_\_\_\_ from a book or another source.