

A Christmas Carol: Top Ten Theme Quotations

<u>Quotation</u>	<u>Stave</u>	<u>Theme(s)</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
"Decrease the surplus population"	One	Social responsibility	Scrooge uses economic language here to refer to the poor. This shows the negative attitude of the middle classes towards the poor.
"I wear the chain I forged in life"			Marley's chains are a symbol of greed. Scrooge is making his chain with his evil, covetous ways. He is going to hell!
"Your reclamation, then. Take heed"		Redemption	Scrooge has lost his goodness (spark/pearl). He must remember when he was a child so he can change back. Scrooge must listen to learn his lesson.
"What Idol has replaced you?" "A golden one"			Scrooge replaces love with money and becomes obsessed. Scrooge grows up poor and when he earns money, he is scared of losing it.
"To any kindly given. To a poor one most"	Three		Scrooge must learn to change his ways: he must give to charity and look after the poor (like the Cratchit family).
"I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's"			The Cratchit family toast Scrooge showing their Christmas spirit. They are thankful regardless of their poverty and display love and affection for each other.
"His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it"		Social responsibility	Fred is the opposite of Scrooge: he is charitable. He is Dickens's version of the ideal middle class man (like Fezziwig). Fred believes that the middle class should support the poor, working class.
"This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want"			The children are symbolic of the suffering of the poor. 'Ignorance' is the middle-class attitude towards the poor, and 'Want' is the desire for material possessions. Dickens uses these characters to encourage social reform.
"I will honour Christmas in my heart"		Christmas/Redemption	Scrooge has learned his lesson – this idea is the opposite of "Bah! Humbug!" He recognises the importance of Christmas as he wants to "honour" it.
"A merry Christmas, Bob ... I'll raise your salary"			Scrooge is now changed. He is full of the Christmas Spirit. He makes things right with Bob by supporting his family. He has left his covetous ways in his past and has become a holy, charitable person.

Five Quotations about Scrooge

Regardless of what question you get in the exam, you will be required to comment on Scrooge and his transformation throughout the novella. Therefore you must learn the following five quotations as they will help you to explore his character and indicate the change the spirits bring about in his personality.

<u>Quotation</u>	<u>Stave</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
“the cold within him froze his old features”	One	
“Hard and sharp as flint”	One	
“solitary as an oyster”	One	
“I am as light as a feather”	Five	
“I am as merry as a schoolboy”	Five	