



Key Terms and Ideas

- Novella
- Ghost Story
- Bildungsroman
- Transformation
- Redemption
- Christian Values
- 1st Person Narrative
- Voice
- 3rd Person Omniscient
- Narrator
- Stave
- Metaphor, Simile,
- Imagery
- Senses
- Pace
- Shifts in Time, Place and Person

Context

- Dickens wrote 'A Christmas Carol' in 1843 focusing on how many of society's ills can be blamed on greed.
- Dickens' early life gave him first-hand experience of poverty.
- 1832 - The Great Reform Bill gave many middle class property owners the right to vote for the first time.
- Large sections of the middle classes, the working classes and women still didn't have the right to vote.
- 1834 - Poor Law Amendment Act - Led to a cut in aid given to the poor.
- Workhouses were created which poor people would have to live and work in, if they were unable to pay for their own housing.
- In 1843, Dickens read a government report on child labour in England.
- Dickens wanted to use his popularity to bring the problem of child poverty to the attention of a wider public.
- Victorian London was a place of great wealth and great poverty

Text overview

Plot: Dickens introduces his 'Ghostly Little Book' and his 'ghost on an idea'. He talks to his reader telling them that he wants if to 'haunt' their memories, so they don't forget why we need to live by Christian values.

Themes: greed, ignorance and want, redemption, free will, poverty, class, isolation, transformation, family, guilt, justice, Christmas, death

Characters: Fred, Jacob Marley, Bob Cratchitt, Tiny Tim, The Ghost of Christmas Past/Present/Yet To Come, Fezzwig, Belle, Fan

Setting: London

Key Vocabulary

dickens

Dickensian

Victorian

poverty

workhouse

ignorance

miserly

redemption

transformation

ghost

spirit

Christmas

injustice

inequality

allegory

stave

novella