

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 The title of this story is *A Christmas Carol*. Do you think it is going to be about . . .

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Christmas music? | 3 changes in someone's life? |
| 2 a party in winter? | 4 a baby girl? |

2 Read the story introduction on the first page of the book, and the back cover. What have you found out? Cross out the words that are wrong.

- 1 Scrooge is a *kind/cross*, *miserable/happy*, *mean/generous* old man, who *enjoys/hates* Christmas and is only interested in *family life/making money*.
- 2 Bob Cratchit is Scrooge's *clerk/partner* and he works in a *warm/cold office/library* with a *small/large* fire.
- 3 Jacob Marley, Scrooge's *clerk/partner*, is *dead/alive*.
- 4 *Frightening/Enjoyable* things happen to Scrooge on Christmas *Day/Eve*, and he sees *three/four* ghosts.
- 5 By Christmas Day, Scrooge *is a changed man / has forgotten all about it*.

3 How much do you know about Christmas in Britain? Think about these questions.

- 1 Do people give presents?
- 2 What kind of food do people eat?

- 3 Do people go to work, or to church, or stay at home?
- 4 Do people visit friends or family?
- 5 What do people say when they meet in the street?

What do you do in your country for special holidays like Christmas?

4 This is a ghost story. What do you think about ghosts?

- 1 What time of day or night do ghosts usually appear?
- 2 Are ghosts always frightening?
- 3 What do you expect a ghost to look like?
- 4 What kinds of message do ghosts often bring?
- 5 Do you believe in ghosts?
- 6 Have you ever seen a ghost?
- 7 Do you know anyone who has seen a ghost?

5 ‘Scrooge learns a lesson that he will never forget.’ Can you guess what kind of lesson? Choose Y (Yes), N (No) or P (Perhaps) for each of these ideas.

- 1 He loses all his money. Y/N/P
- 2 He dies of heart trouble. Y/N/P
- 3 His family refuses to speak to him. Y/N/P
- 4 He finds the love of his life again. Y/N/P
- 5 He has no one to work for him. Y/N/P
- 6 He sees what the future holds for him. Y/N/P
- 7 He learns to like people. Y/N/P
- 8 He has his tongue cut out. Y/N/P

‘A CHRISTMAS CAROL’

ACTIVITY ANSWER KEY

Before Reading Activities

Activity 1

Students will find out as they read that the best answer is number 3.

Activity 2

1. Scrooge is a *cross, miserable, mean* old man, who *hates* Christmas and is only interested in *making money*.
2. Bob Cratchit is Scrooge’s *clerk* and he works in a *cold office* with a *small fire*.
3. Jacob Marley, Scrooge’s *partner*, is *dead*.
4. *Frightening* things happen to Scrooge on Christmas Eve, and he sees *four* ghosts.
5. By Christmas Day, Scrooge *is a changed man*.

Activity 3

Encourage discussion. Possible answers:

1. Yes, most people give presents to family and friends.
2. The traditional meal is roast turkey with vegetables, followed by a Christmas pudding.
3. It is a holiday for almost everybody, so most people stay at home or perhaps go away for a few days. Some people go to church.
4. Many people visit friends or family.
5. ‘Merry Christmas!’ ‘And a Merry Christmas to you too!’

Activity 4

Encourage discussion. Open answers.

Activity 5

Students will find out as they read that the ‘yes’ answers are numbers 6 and 7.