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## A christmas carol charles dickens short story

Home Literature Novels & Short Stories Andrea WarrenGiving Voice to Children in History In 1843, thirty-one-year-old Charles Dickens had money problems. His wife was expecting their sixth child, he was in debt, and he supported a slew of needy relatives. He was known for long novels that were published in weekly installments, but because time was of the essence, he decided to write a short story (actually a long story by our standards, but short by his) that he could publish quickly. The British were enamored with the paranormal, so he decided it would be a ghost story. To increase interest, he included THREE ghosts. And to seal the deal, he added a bonus apparition that appeared at the stroke of midnight, dragging its chains from hell. That would get readers' attention. He didn't intend to simply entertain them. He was Charles Dickens, after all, and his writing was also meant to inspire. His family had once been poor, and his quest, as always, was to help the less fortunate. The tale he crafted happened at Christmas, a holiday that in England included charitable giving—the perfect setting for his message that charity must come from the heart, and that it's never too late for redemption. From his fertile imagination he conjured up Ebenezer Scrooge, "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, clutching, covetous, old sinner!" whose refrain to anything distasteful was "Bah, Humbug!" Scrooge represented the self-serving upper classes, while his poorly paid clerk, Bob Cratchit, and his family, including sickly Tiny Tim, represent the deserving poor. Dickens sent Scrooge on a wild night's journey, led by the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future. Scrooge visited his childhood and learned why he'd become such a miserable miser, and he saw a grim future awaiting him if he didn't change his ways. By sunrise Christmas morning he was a new man; his hard heart had melted and he became a good friend to the poor, beginning with the Cratchit family. He resolved to "honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

To Dickens' delight, his readers did the same. In example after example, A Christmas Carol inspired the upper classes to be more charitable to the lower classes. And because the book became a bestseller, it eased Dickens' financial worries. Dickens' ghost story remains popular today, reminding us all that it's never too late to do the right thing, and allowing us to proclaim with Tiny Tim, "God Bless Us, Every One!" The title page of the original 1843 edition of "A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas." Scrooge and Marley -- a John Leech etching from the original edition of "A Christmas Carol: The last of the spirits, a John Leech etching from the original edition of "The Christmas Carol" Scrooge's third visitor -- a John Leech etching from the original edition of "A Christmas Carol Scrooge and Bob Cratchit, a John Leech etching from the original edition of "The Christmas Carol" Ignorance and want of the miser -- a particularly moving etching of children suffering. Drawn by John Leech for the original edition of "A Christmas Carol." You can learn more about Charles Dickens and his stories in Andrea Warren's book Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London and on her website. Andrea Warren is a member of INK's Authors on Call and is available for classroom programs through Field Trip Zoom, a terrific technology that requires only a computer, wifi, and a webcam. Click here to find out more. MLA 8 CitationWarren, Andrea. "Dickens' A Christmas Carol: How a Short Story with a Big Message Helped the Poor." Nonfiction Minute. INK Think Tank. 12 Dec. 2017. www.nonfictionminute.org/Dickens-a-christmas-carol. Charles Dickens' novella A Christmas Carol in Prose, Being a Ghost-Story of Christmas (1843) remains one of the most popular and enduring Christmas stories of all time. A Christmas Carol is a morality tale of a bitter old miser named Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge holds much of the world in contempt and has sacrificed love and friendship to the worship of money. Running his business with tyrannical authority, the oppressive boss is so cheerless that he refuses to show Bob Cratchit, his over worked and underpaid employee any quarter, even on the day before Christmas.Jacob Marley, Ebenezer Scrooge's deceased partner visits old man Scrooge as he is making his way home on Christmas Eve.In serial order the ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come visit old Scrooge, and are able to spark a dramatic change in the bitter old man. Enjoy Charles Dickens' masterful tale of redemption. A story that has given us timeless characters like Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley, and Tiny Tim.This book is featured in our collection of Books for Young Readers and Christmas Stories.STAVE 1STAVE 2STAVE 3STAVE 4STAVE 5Return to the Charles Dickens library. A comprehensive list of short stories gives students a wide range of time-tested options. Below, we provide summaries of 10 classic stories.The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins GilmanFeminist, sociologist and novelist Charlotte Perkins Gilman wrote The Yellow Wallpaper, providing a first-person perspective of disconnectedness and insanity, and subtle themes of irony.Lather and Nothing Else by Hernando TellezLather and Nothing Else by Hernando Tellez tells the story of a barber who recognizes an armed man who enters his barbershop for a shave, only to discover that the two are at the opposite sides of a contentious political conflict that has escalated to violence. The barber must decide what to do under the circumstances.The Old Man at the Bridge by Ernest HemingwayWith a canon that delves into the human condition during the Spanish Civil War, Ernest Hemingway is a go-to in most literary circles. His short story The Old Man at the Bridge focuses on an old man sitting at the side of a country road during the war. The man has already traveled 12 kilometers to flee the area, but is too distracted and exhausted to continue.Popular Mechanics by Raymond CarverOne of the classic very short stories at only 500 words, Popular Mechanics by Raymond Carver is a stripped-down, minimalistic masterpiece that lets the readers interpret the scene for themselves. Without judgment, Carver narrates the tale of a man packing his suitcase to leave home for good when an argument with his wife escalates.A Conversation From the Third Floor by Mohamed El-BisatieA classic among moralistic short stories, A Conversation From the Third Floor by Mohamed El-Bisatie documents a woman who goes to the outside of a prison in an attempt to talk to her jailed husband.The Secret Life of Walter Mitty by James ThurberThe Secret Life of Walter Mitty became one of the most famous short stories when a film starring Ben Stiller was made with the same name. Written by James Thurber, this story details the daydreams of a put-upon, passive man as he drives his wife on her weekly errands.Say Yes by Tobias WolffAs a married couple washes dishes together in Say Yes by Tobias Wolff, the topic of interracial marriage arises and the two discover they have conflicting views on the matter. The wife wants to talk it out, while the husband wants to drop it.Pilon by Sandra CisnerosOne of the most touching stories of inspiration is Sandra Cisneros's Pilon. The narrator recalls emotions from her youth when she felt no self-consciousness about her appearance and body.The Gift of the Magi by O. HenryA short story with a twist ending always offers the best entertainment, and The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry delights with its surprising turn of events.The Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allan PoeThe Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allan Poe is one of the greats in American Gothic literature. Poe's attention to detail and his description of the house play an important part in the telling of this tale. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET Short Story IndexPrevious Story SectionMaster Peter, and the two ubiquitous young Cratchits went to fetch the goose, with which they soon returned in high procession.Such a bustle ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds; a feathered phenomenon, to which a black swan was a matter of course, and in truth it was something very like it in that house. Mrs. Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob took Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits set chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn came to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It was succeeded by a breathless pause, as Mrs. Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it in the breast; but when she did, and when the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight arose all round the board, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, beat on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah!There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by the apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last! Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows! But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs. Cratchit left the room alone, too nervous to bear witnesses, to take the pudding up and bring it in.Suppose it should not be done enough! Suppose it should break in turning out. Suppose somebody should have got over the wall of the back-yard and stolen it, while they were merry with the goose, a supposition at which the two young Cratchits became livid! All sorts of horrors were supposed.Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastrycook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding! In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered, -flushed, but smiling proudly, with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half-a-quartern of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.Oh, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind, she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. It would have been, flat heresy to do so. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing.At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up. The compound in the jug being tasted, and considered perfect, apples and oranges were put upon the table, and a shovel-full of chestnuts on the fire. Then all the Cratchit family drew round the hearth, in what Bob Cratchit called a circle, meaning half a one; and at Bob Cratchit's elbow stood the family display of glasses. Two tumblers, and a custard-cup without a handle.These held the hot stuff from the jug, however, as well as golden goblets would have done; and Bob served it out with beaming looks, while the chestnuts on the fire sputtered and cracked noisily. Then Bob proposed:"A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!"Which all the family re-echoed."God bless us every one!" said Tiny Tim, the last of all. Charles Dickens the Author of A Christmas Carol Short Story Nationality - English Lifespan - 1832 - 1888 Family - Father was Charles Dickens a naval clerk Education - Wellington House Academy, London Career - Poet, novelist, and journalist Famous works by Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist, The Pickwick Papers, David Copperfield, A Christmas CarolA Christmas Carol - Short Story A Printer Friendly Free Short Story!





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