

Chapter 3

The Second of the Three Spirits

1. Who was the second ghost that visited Scrooge? What did he look like?

2. How has Scrooge's attitude changed towards the visits by the three spirits?

3. Who is Tiny Tim? What do we all learn about him in this chapter?

4. Why does Tiny Tim hope people saw him in the church?

5. What does the Ghost mean when he says "I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die."?

6. What words spoken by Scrooge earlier (and now quoted by the Ghost) to the two men collecting money for the poor does Scrooge now repent of?

7. Explain this quote from the Ghost: "*Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child.*"

8. How did Scrooge become the punch-line of the *Yes and No* game at Scrooge's nephew's house?

9. What impact did the Ghost have on all the places far and near he visited and the people he passed by?

10. What surprising transformation happens with the Ghost? What is the Ghost's explanation?

11. What do the two children symbolize who are crouched down at the feet of Ghost?

Define the following words and then use them in a sentence:

Spectre

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

Capacious

Definition: _____

Sentence: _____

Chapter 3 - Answers

The Second of the Three Spirits

1. Who was the second ghost that visited Scrooge? What did he look like?

The second ghost that visited Scrooge was the Ghost of Christmas Present. The Ghost was wearing a simple green robe which was edged with white fur. The robe hung loosely and showed the bare chest of the Ghost. The Ghost had bare feet and a holly wreath sat atop a head of long brown curly hair. The Ghost had sparkling eyes, a cheery voice and a joyful air. The Ghost has a big heart and the open robe symbolizes an open heart. He also has an empty scabbard which symbolizes peace and the celebration of the 'Prince of Peace'.

2. How has Scrooge's attitude changed towards the visits by the three spirits?

Scrooge is open to change and states "Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. Tonight, if you have to teach me, let me profit by it."

3. Who is Tiny Tim? What do we all learn about him in this chapter?

Tiny Tim is Bob Cratchit's crippled son. Tiny Tim is not healthy though Bob unconvincingly tries to tell his family that Tim is growing strong and healthy. Bob is very close to Tim and dreads the thought that Tim might die in his childhood. The Ghost tells Scrooge that unless things change, the child will die.

4. Why does Tiny Tim hope people saw him in the church?

Tiny Tim hopes people saw him in the church because then they would be reminded about the true message of Christmas – that Jesus was born and came to the world to save people in need. "...he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

5. What does the Ghost mean when he says "I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die."?

The Ghost is telling Scrooge that unless the Cratchit's situation changes, Tiny Tim will die. Scrooge is being told that he would be responsible for this because of his coldness and lack of care. Scrooge scorns Bob for his meagre salary and yet it is Scrooge who pays Bob Cratchit. Scrooge has condemned the Cratchit family to a life of poverty and destitution.

6. What words spoken by Scrooge earlier (and now quoted by the Ghost) to the two men collecting money for the poor does Scrooge now repent of?

"What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."

7. Explain this quote from the Ghost: *"Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child."*

The Ghost rebukes Scrooge for being so heartless and for ruling that the poor have no purpose and reason to continue living. Scrooge defined purpose and worth based on one's material worth. The Ghost points out that in the grand scheme of things, in the sight of Heaven, money has no value and Scrooge may be more worthless than even the poorest child.

8. How did Scrooge become the punch-line of the *Yes and No* game at Scrooge's nephew's house?

The game is played by players asking a series of questions to which the leader of the game can only answer yes and no. The players take turns asking questions hoping to reveal the word that the leader of the game is thinking of. In the game played by Fred and his friends, Fred laughs at the irony of some of the questions. Fred answers yes to the questions asking if the word in question is a disagreeable, savage, and grunting animal that prowls the streets of London. When the 'plump sister' finally solves the riddle of the animal being Uncle Scrooge, the room dissolves into uproarious laughter.

9. What impact did the Ghost have on all the places far and near he visited and the people he passed by?

The Ghost brought Scrooge to many places and each visit had a happy end. "The Spirit stood beside sick beds, and they were cheerful; on foreign lands, and they were close at home; by struggling men, and they were patient in their greater hope; by every refuge, where man in his little brief life had not locked the door and barred the Spirit out, he left his blessing, and taught Scrooge his truths."

10. What surprising transformation happens with the Ghost? What is the Ghost's explanation?

After a long night of visiting different places, Scrooge notices that the Ghost is noticeably older. The Ghost's hair turns grey. The Ghost explains that his life in this world is very short and that it would end that very night.

11. What do the two children symbolize who are crouched down at the feet of Ghost?

The two children symbolize 'ignorance' and 'want'. The children do not belong to the Ghost but belong to man. Man's ignorance of the downtrodden and the lowly and man's lack of charity have left these children in this sickly state. Scrooge had been ignorant of the great needs around him – he had shut the messengers of truth out. He ignored his nephew, didn't know anything about Bob Cratchit and his family, chased the caroler away, and lambasted the men seeking alms for trying to help the poor. Because of his willful ignorance, many around Scrooge needlessly suffered. Scrooge shows his ignorance when he asks if there is any help for these children. The Ghost sharply rebuts with a quote from Scrooge himself: "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?"