**A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens**

Stave I: The Arrival of Marley’s Ghost

After several turns, he sat down again. As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, a disused bell, that hung in the room, and communicated for some purpose now forgotten with a chamber in the highest story of the building. It was with great astonishment, and with a strange, inexplicable dread, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; but soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house.

This might have lasted half a minute, or a minute, but it seemed an hour. The bells ceased as they had begun, together. They were succeeded by a clanking noise, deep down below; as if some person were dragging a heavy chain over the casks in the wine merchant's cellar. Scrooge then remembered to have heard that ghosts in haunted houses were described as dragging chains.

The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, and then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming up the stairs; then coming straight towards his door.

Independent Comprehension

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

He was not reading now, but walking up and down despairingly. Scrooge looked at the

ghost, and, with a mournful shaking of his head, glanced anxiously towards the door.

It creaked opened; and a little girl, much younger than the boy, came darting in, and,

putting her arms about his neck, and often kissing him, addressed him as her ‘dear, dear

brother.’

‘I have come to bring you home, dear brother!’ said the child, clapping her hands, and

bending down to laugh. ‘To bring you home, home, home!’

‘Home, little Fan?’ returned the boy.

‘Yes!’ said the child, brimful of glee. ‘Home for good and all. Home for ever and ever. Father

is so much kinder than he used to be, that home’s like heaven! He spoke so gently to me

one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you

might come home; and he said Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you.

Year 5

1. How is the mood of the story shown through the sounds that are described?

*The mood of the story is shown through the sounds…*

2) Does Charles Dickens use a mix of negative and positive sounds? If so, how?

3) How does Charles Dickens create an excited setting in this extract from ‘A Christmas Carol’? What language techniques does he use? (Yr 6)

Charles Dickens creates an excited setting when he tells us that…

4) Find and copy a word that is used to describe the **happiness** in the story.

5) What clues are there that something **negative has** happened to Scrooge in the past?

We can make a clever guess that something negative has happened to Scrooge in the past because…

Year 6

1. How is the mood of the story shown through the sounds that are described?

*The mood of the story is shown through the sounds…*

2) Does Charles Dickens use a mix of negative and positive sounds? If so, how?

3) How does Charles Dickens create an excited setting in this extract from ‘A Christmas Carol’? What language techniques does he use? (Yr 6)

Charles Dickens creates an excited setting when he tells us that…

4) Find and copy a word that is used to describe the **happiness** in the story.

5) What clues are there that something **negative has** happened to Scrooge in the past?

We can make a clever guess that something negative has happened to Scrooge in the past because…

* 6) Find a copy a word that means the same as ‘rushing’? Why do you think the author made this word choice? What impact does it have on the reader?