



STORY SPECULATIONS



A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Give out one sentence per child. Using the Voice 21 groupings of 'Onion' or 'Traverse', each child reads their sentence to the child opposite them and spends one minute discussing the clues and what the story could be about. They could also just move around the class choosing other children at random. When they move on, they use the new and previous clues to guess the following aspects of the story, piecing together evidence to back up their theories. You may wish to use our 'Book Knowledge Organisers' to go through the book in more detail at the end if you or the children are unfamiliar with the story.

setting

characters

plot

genre



1.) It was cold, bleak, biting weather.

2.) 'Merry Christmas!'

3.) 'It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's.'

4.) Meanwhile the fog and darkness thickened so that people ran about with flaring links, proffering their services to go before horses in carriages, and conduct them on their way.

5.) He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms...

6.) 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.

7.) 'You will be haunted,'

8.) The darkness and the mist had vanished with it, for it was a clear, cold, winter day, with snow upon the ground.

9.) 'She died a woman,' said the Ghost, 'and had, as I think, children.'



10.) The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there;

11.) In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see.

12.) At last the dinner was all done, the cloth was cleared, the hearth swept, and the fire made up.

13.) Again the Ghost sped on, above the black and heaving sea.

14.) Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing.

15.) The Phantom slowly, gravely, silently, approached.

16.) ...an animal that growled and grunted sometimes, and talked sometimes, and lived in London...

17.) 'What has he done with his money?'

18.) The finger pointed from the grave to him, and back again.

19.) I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

20.) He had been sobbing violently in his conflict with the Spirit, and his face was wet with tears.

21.) I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school-boy.

22.) Come back with the man, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes, and I'll give you half-a-crown!

23.) He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

24.) It was a large house, but one of broken fortunes.

25.) Five minutes, ten minutes, a quarter of an hour went by, yet nothing came.



26.) This idea taking full possession of his mind, he got up softly and shuffled in his slippers to the door.

27.) 'If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.'

28.) Built upon a dismal reef of sunken rocks, some league or so from shore, on which the waters chafed and dashed, the wild year through, there stood a solitary lighthouse.

29.) 'Is it a foot or a claw!'

30.) Alleys and archways, like so many cesspools, disgorged their offences of smell, and dirt, and life, upon the straggling streets; and the whole quarter reeked with crime, with filth, and misery.