
Stave 2

A Christmas Carol

The First of the Three Spirits

Directions

Pre-Reading

1. Preview (read through) the study questions for *A Christmas Carol* Stave 2.
2. Complete the Vocabulary Worksheet for *A Christmas Carol* Stave 2.

Reading

1. Read *A Christmas Carol* Stave 2.
2. Keep your study questions in mind as you read.

Post-Reading

1. Answer all of the study guide questions for Stave 2.
2. Complete the Reader Response Assignment for Stave 2.

Vocabulary Stave 2 Part I

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the bold words mean in the space provided.

1. The curtains of his bed were drawn aside; and Scrooge, starting up into a half-**recumbent** attitude, found himself face to face with the unearthly visitor who drew them: as close to it as I am now to you, and I am standing in the spirit at your elbow.
2. It would have been in vain for Scrooge to plead that the weather and the hour were not adapted to **pedestrian** purposes; that bed was warm, and the thermometer a long way below freezing; that he was clad but lightly in his slippers, dressing gown, and nightcap; and that he had a cold upon him at the time.
3. He rose: but finding that the Spirit made towards the window, clasped its robe in **supplication**. "I am a mortal," Scrooge remonstrated, "and liable to fall."
4. He rose: but finding that the Spirit made towards the window, clasped its robe in supplication. "I am a mortal," Scrooge **remonstrated**, "and liable to fall."
5. It opened before them, and disclosed a long, bare, **melancholy** room, made barer still by lines of plain deal forms and desks.
6. A terrible voice in the hall cried, "Bring down Master Scrooge's box, there!" and in the hall appeared the schoolmaster himself, who glared on Master Scrooge with a ferocious **condescension**, and threw him into a dreadful state of mind by shaking hands with him.
7. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his **capacious** waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice: "Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

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8. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of **benevolence**; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice: "Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"
9. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its **sordid** reproach. . . ."
10. In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its **adversary**, Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright . . .

Vocabulary Stave 2 Part II

Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| ___ 1. recumbent | A. reclining; lying down |
| ___ 2. pedestrian | B. filthy; vile |
| ___ 3. supplication | C. sadness; depression ; gloom |
| ___ 4. remonstrated | D. asking for humbly or earnestly; praying |
| ___ 5. melancholy | E. opponent; enemy |
| ___ 6. condescension | F. going on foot; walking |
| ___ 7. capacious | G. generosity; kindness |
| ___ 8. benevolence | H. being courteous with a superior air |
| ___ 9. sordid | I. spacious; large |
| ___ 10. adversary | J. protested |

Study Questions Stave 2

1. What did Scrooge notice about the church chimes when he woke up? What did he think had happened?
2. Describe what the first Spirit looked like. Who was the first Spirit? What was its purpose?
3. Scrooge asked the Spirit what business brought him there. What was the Spirit's answer?
4. Describe the first scene Scrooge and the Spirit visited. How did Scrooge feel about what he saw?



Reader Response Entry Stave 2

In the space below, write a substantial response to this part of the story you have just read. It could be your thoughts on one of the following: an idea presented, an event, a character's actions or attitude, a topic related in some way to something presented in this section of the novel, a response to a particular passage that stood out to you as you read, or you could write a creative response like a poem or song lyrics as long as it is relevant in some way to what you have just read.