

Student Essay

A Summary of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

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A Summary of A Christmas Carol

Ebenezer Scrooge was an old, mean spirited and miserly businessman. One Christmas Eve, as he, and all of his other employees were working as usual, his nephew, Fred comes to visit him to invite him to his annual Christmas party, while two other gentlemen also come by, asking for donations. Scrooge refuses both and expresses his hatred for the Christmas holiday, and his uncaring for the welfare of others. Later that evening, Scrooge receives a visit from his long dead former business partner, Jacob Marley, who explains that in the afterlife, as punishment for being greedy and living a selfish, self-serving life his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighted down with heavy chains, he warns Scrooge that he is building himself weights and if he does not reform his ways, he will be condemned to an afterlife of sheer misery. Marley also informs him that three spirits will visit him during each of the next three hours. Marley leaves, and Scrooge falls asleep. On the stroke of mid-night, the childlike ghost of Christmas past visits him, and escorts him to the past to view his previous Christmases from his childhood school days, his Christmases as a young man, and his engagement to Belle, a woman who leaves Scrooge because of his intense love for money. After this, the very happy Ghost of Christmas Present appears and takes Scrooge to watch the large Cratchit family get ready for their small Christmas dinner, he also sees Bob Cratchit's crippled son, Tiny Tim, who Scrooge likes very much. The spirit then takes him to his nephew's to see their happy Christmas party. The spirit grows old and the last one comes, the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. This spirit shows life post the death of an apparently hated old man, when Scrooge realizes that this is his fate if he doesn't reform. Scrooge wakes up Christmas morning happy with the chance to redeem himself, rushes out onto the street hoping to share his new-found joy in Christmas and in life. He sends a large Christmas turkey to the Cratchit house and attends Fred's party, surprising everyone. Afterwards, he keeps his new way of life, and treats everyone, especially Tiny Tim with kindness, generosity and respect.