GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

The first spirit makes remembering an active moral experience. It shows Scrooge both wounds and alternatives to the life he chose.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Appears as changing light › **2** Reveals loneliness › **3** Recalls generosity › **4** Exposes lost love

REVELATION MEETS RESISTANCE

“a bright clear jet of light”

Narrator, Stave 2

PAIRED WITH

“could not hide the light”

Narrator as Scrooge presses down the cap, Stave 2

METHOD → MEANING

Light makes memory illuminating and difficult to suppress. Scrooge’s attempt to extinguish it dramatises resistance to truths he is beginning to recognise.

CARE AND PAINFUL REFORM

“Your welfare!”

Ghost, Stave 2

PAIRED WITH

“Your reclamation, then”

Ghost, Stave 2

METHOD → MEANING

The spirit’s correction insists that helping Scrooge may require discomfort. The visit is not nostalgic entertainment: recollection must change his understanding of himself.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

The childlike and aged appearance suggests the strange nearness and distance of memory. The scenes belong to Scrooge’s past, not the spirit’s personal development.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

Why must Scrooge remember Fezziwig’s kindness as well as his own loneliness?

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