The main idea

The second spirit links abundant celebration to urgent responsibility. Its warmth makes the exposure of neglected children more unsettling.

Character development

Welcomes Scrooge

Reveals shared celebration

Returns his own words

Uncovers deprivation

An invitation that becomes a challenge

“Come in! and know me better, man!” — Ghost, Stave 3

“Are there no prisons?” — Ghost repeating Scrooge, Stave 3

The welcoming imperative opens Scrooge to other lives. Repetition later turns his earlier dismissal back on him, exposing the inadequacy of punishment as an answer to need.

Abundance and deprivation

“a jolly Giant” — Narrator, Stave 3

“This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.” — Ghost, Stave 3

The expansive festive figure seems to promise plenty; the allegorical children concealed beneath its robe reveal deprivation within the same society. Celebration becomes a reason to share.

Develop the interpretation

The spirit ages across the day. Its short life turns the present into an opportunity that cannot simply be postponed.

Recall question

How do the children change the meaning of the spirit’s earlier abundance?