The main idea

The last spirit makes Scrooge interpret the consequences of a life without affection. Its silence places pressure on him to recognise himself and choose.

Character development

Approaches silently

Shows an unloved death

Reveals family grief

Points to the grave

Silent power

“a solemn Phantom” — Narrator, Stave 4

“The Spirit answered not” — Narrator, Stave 4

The ghost’s imposing outline and refusal to explain make the future difficult to negotiate with. Scrooge must connect the fragments himself rather than wait for a reassuring speech.

Prediction becomes possibility

“I fear you more than any spectre” — Scrooge, Stave 4

“I am not the man I was” — Scrooge, Stave 4

The direct admission exposes vulnerability. The later assertion announces a changed identity, but the final stave must still test that claim through action.

Develop the interpretation

The visions are warnings about a possible future. Do not claim the spirit proves that change is impossible or confirms Tiny Tim must die.

Recall question

Why delay the dead man’s identification until the gravestone?