EXAM STASH

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – CHARACTER REVISION

SCROOGE – STAVE 2

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GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



MEMORY | CHOICE | MONEY | LOSS

Remembering makes Scrooge feel what his habits have concealed. Childhood loneliness invites sympathy, but the memory of Belle shows how his own priorities also shaped his isolation.

THE JOURNEY: STAVE 2

2.1 **School:** he sees his lonely younger self and remembers the carol singer.



2.2 **Fan:** affectionate rescue recalls a relationship he has neglected through Fred.



2.3 **Fezziwig:** a generous employer makes him reflect on Bob.



2.4 **Belle:** money displaces love; her later family life makes the loss painful.



5 KEY QUOTATIONS

1 ***'a solitary child, neglected by his friends'***

Speaker/Scene: Narrator, Stave 2

Method: Pathos; echo of isolation

Analysis: The adult outsider is shown as a vulnerable child. Dickens gives his hardness a history without making childhood hurt an excuse for every later choice.

2 ***'I should like to have given him something'***

Speaker/Scene: Scrooge, Stave 2

Method: Retrospective regret

Analysis: Remembering loneliness prompts an impulse of generosity towards the carol singer he rejected. Feeling begins to cross from the past into present relationships.

3 ***'He has the power to render us happy or unhappy'***

Speaker/Scene: Scrooge about Fezziwig, Stave 2

Method: Balanced alternatives; recognition of power

Analysis: He recognises that employers shape emotional as well as material lives. The lesson challenges the way he treats his own clerk.

4 ***'A golden one'***

Speaker/Scene: Belle, Stave 2

Method: Idolatry metaphor

Analysis: Belle names the money that has displaced her as an idol. Religious language makes gain a rival devotion, not simply a sensible financial goal.

5 ***'I cannot bear it!'***

Speaker/Scene: Scrooge, Stave 2

Method: Exclamation; resistance

Analysis: Painful recognition makes him try to stop the vision. Wanting the light extinguished shows that learning is emotionally difficult, not an instant smooth conversion.

THE BIG IDEA

Remembering makes Scrooge feel what his habits have concealed. Childhood loneliness invites sympathy, but the memory of Belle shows how his own priorities also shaped his isolation.

KEY CONNECTIONS

- **Fan's** love complicates Scrooge's rejection of her son Fred.
- **Fezziwig** contrasts with Scrooge as employer: small acts can produce disproportionate happiness.
- **Belle** is a moral witness with her own judgement; she identifies changes Scrooge tries to deny.

INTERPRETATION: SCROOGE IN STAVE 2

- **Basic:** Scrooge learns that he has lost love and happiness.
- **Further:** the selected memories link remembered feeling to present duties.
- **Advanced:** Dickens balances sympathy for the neglected child against responsibility for the adult's choices.

CONTEXT (RELEVANT)

- Victorian ideals of family and benevolent employment shape these memories. Dickens tests wealth against the quality of relationships it permits or destroys.

PAIRED-QUOTATION LINK

"solitary as an oyster" (Stave 1) ↔ ***"a solitary child"*** (Stave 2): repeated isolation changes from a judgement of the adult into pity for his younger self.



RECALL TASKS

1 Why is Fezziwig's power more important than the cost of his party?

2 How do the memories explain Scrooge without excusing him?

WRITING TASK

How does Dickens use the past to change Scrooge's understanding of himself?

