## Development

Dickens tests Scrooge's conversion through what he does. Joy matters because it becomes generosity, renewed relationships and sustained care beyond Christmas morning.

## Journey through the act or stave

Waking: surprise and childlike delight replace habitual coldness.

Giving: he arranges a turkey and approaches a charity collector.

Belonging: he joins Fred's gathering rather than refusing the invitation.

Employment and family: he raises Bob's salary and becomes a continuing support to Tiny Tim.

## 1. "I am as light as a feather"

Scrooge, Stave 5

Method: Simile; release from weight

The joyful comparison reverses the earlier heavy, hard portrait. Relief is physical and emotional, suggesting release from his old habits.

## 2. "as merry as a schoolboy"

Scrooge, Stave 5

Method: Simile; return to childhood

Schoolboy pleasure recalls earlier scenes of loneliness. The adult can now recover play and openness instead of repeating exclusion.

## 3. "I'll raise your salary"

Scrooge to Bob, Stave 5

Method: Direct promise; economic action

The change reaches the employment relationship. Money becomes a means of improving another family's daily life rather than protecting only himself.

## 4. “a second father”

Narrator about Scrooge and Tiny Tim, Stave 5

Method: Family metaphor

The bond is continuing and personal. His response to poverty becomes responsibility for a named child rather than an impersonal statistic.

## 5. “better than his word”

Narrator, Stave 5

Method: Evaluative judgement; narrative confirmation

The narrator confirms that conduct exceeds promises. This closes the gap between the declarations at the grave and the actions needed to make them credible.

## Connections to other characters

Bob experiences reform through practical support, not just a warmer greeting.

Fred’s repeated offer of belonging is finally accepted.

Tiny Tim makes the reversal of “surplus population” concrete; sustaining a child’s life gives the conclusion its social meaning.

## Develop your interpretation

Basic: Scrooge becomes kind and generous.

Further: Dickens uses joyful similes and changed economic behaviour to make redemption visible.

Advanced: the ending’s long-term narrative judgement matters more than a single gift; reform must become a habit.

## Pair the evidence

“decrease the surplus population” (Stave 1) ↔ “a second father” (Stave 5): dehumanising dismissal becomes lasting care.

## Context

The carol’s festive ending presents generosity and belonging as obligations that should continue throughout the year. Its resolution invites readers to examine their own conduct.

## Recall questions

Which evidence proves change lasts beyond Christmas morning?

How do the final similes answer the earlier portrait of Scrooge?

## Writing task

How does Dickens make Scrooge’s redemption convincing in Stave 5?

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