The main idea

Tiny Tim gives social neglect an individual human cost. His generosity of feeling challenges Scrooge's assumption that poverty measures human worth.

Character development

Shares family joy

Makes need personal

Faces a possible death

Survives an altered future

Inclusive care and fragile life

"God bless Us, Every One!" — Tiny Tim, Stave 3

"a vacant seat" — Ghost about Tim's possible future, Stave 3

The inclusive blessing extends goodwill beyond the household. The absent place makes the cost of neglect imaginable through something small and familiar.

The future can change

"the child will die" — Ghost's conditional warning, Stave 3

"who did NOT die" — Narrator about Tim, Stave 5

Read the first fragment with its condition: the future depends on whether its shadows alter. The emphatic final correction turns Scrooge's reform into an outcome that matters to another person.

Develop the interpretation

Tim is loved and expressive before Scrooge changes. Discuss his own place in the family, rather than treating him solely as a device to improve a rich man.

Recall question

Why is an empty place at the table more powerful than an abstract population statistic?

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