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# *A CHRISTMAS CAROL: MARLEY AND THE CHAINS*

MS. SPEAR

*A CHRISTMAS CAROL UNIT, WEEK 1*



# TODAY YOU WILL NEED...

- The physical textbook for this class, turned to page 481
- Pen/pencil and your LA notebook
- 3 strips of plain paper
- 3 pieces of tape
- 1 paper clip

THINK FAST! While we give everyone a moment, grab that LA notebook. Write ELEMENTS OF DRAMA at the top. TWO MINUTES! What are the elements of drama? What is in a play? GO! Please keep your answers secret.

# THESE ARE THE PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Who are the two most important characters in the first act (or stave)?

In the whole-group chat pod, describe one character and your reaction to this person.

- Why are they in the story?
- How are they/did they live their lives?
- What kind of person are they?

## DELVING INTO SCROOGE: WHAT DO WE KNOW BY NOW?

- Take a moment to skim back through pages 481-483. What do we know, at the beginning, of our main man Scrooge? Put one fact AND one character trait/analysis word in the chat pod when you're ready. (Take 3 mins)
- Look at page 481. Why is money the only thing Scrooge seems to care about?

# MARLEY ENTERS THE SCENE

- As Scrooge begins his dream journey, he is visited first by Marley. Who is this person? Why do you think this character will play an important role in changing Scrooge's view of life and what it means to be human?

Bonus Word: familiar

Hint: NOT something we already sort of know



## MARLEY'S CHAINS: LET'S PONDER ON THIS ONE FOR AWHILE

“I wear the chain I forged in life,” replied Marley. “I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it. Is its pattern strange to you?” Scrooge trembled more and more. “Or would you know,” pursued the Ghost, “the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!”

- Marley carries a very heavy load after his death. Why is that? What do you think the chains stand for in real life? (Think back to what kind of person Scrooge is and what Marley may have been like as a business man.)
- Marley tells Scrooge that “you [Scrooge] has labored on it, since.” What does that tell us about what punishments Scrooge might face if he does not change his attitudes about others and his choice in life?

# REMEMBER THE DEEP END IN POETRY? LET'S TAKE ANOTHER DIVE!

“The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, padlocks, **ledgers**, **deeds**, and heavy **purses** wrought in steel.”

Job one: break down those bolded words! What do they mean?

Job two: Are Scrooge and Marley more alike than we thought? If so, HOW? (chat pod chatter!)



# CHAINS AS A SYMBOL: STILL SWIMMING IN THE DEEP END!

We've seen how Marley is weighted down by a chain that holds all of the things he was pre-occupied with in life. He is unable to move forward in life and grow as a person. While our character focuses on material things and money, what do you think he is missing out on in life that make it seem like he is *less free* than many of the other characters?





# IN A WAY, WE ALL HAVE CHAINS.

There are all sorts of ways that even real life people can get weighed down or stuck on the wrong track—or with unimportant things—that keep us from feeling free, happy, and empowered to do better as individual.

What are some behaviors, ideas, or habit that YOU think might become chains for people? (Think about books, movies, people you know, or even the world.) Take 2 minutes and put your ideas in the chat pod.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Remember those supplies I asked you to bring to class today? NOW, we are ready to use them to make visuals of what we learned today. As always, our class is a safe place to question, share, and learn, and we pretty much rock at all of those!

For the next 5-8 minutes, we are going to make our own symbolic chains. Sharing our chains is **OPTIONAL**!

Step one: write down a phrase on each paper slip that explains a way (behavior, idea, habit) that gets in the way of what you want to do/believe/become in life

Step two: make the chain. TAPE one closed, then link another thru, tape, repeat...kind of like little kid art class. 😊

Step three: make your paper clip into a fish hook. Hook one end to the top of your chain. Hook/take the other to the side of your PC, desk, etc (ask a coach first!). **SAVE THEM!!** We will do an activity with them at the end of the unit.

**OPTIONAL:** share your strips in the poll pod. Names are **NOT** required, but you may if you are comfortable. I will share mine, too!