

Year 11 – English Literature – 19th Century Text: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Context and Setting		Dramatic Devices		Characters	
Queen Victoria's Reign (1837-1901)	during the Victorian era in 1843	ignorance	argued as more dangerous than poverty by Dickens	Tiny Tim	frail, ill, pious ; serves as an important symbol of the consequences of the protagonist's choices
Malthusian Principles - 1798	Thomas Malthus publishes The Principle of Population ; stated humans would eventually be unable to produce enough food to sustain themselves	misanthrope	a person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society	Ghost of Christmas Past	ephemeral, gentle, firm ; represents memory and sympathy for S
John Dickens	Dickens' father arrested for debt, and imprisoned	philanthropist	a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others , especially by donations to good causes	Ghost of Christmas Present	jolly, honest, prophetic ; represents compassion and poverty
1834 – Poor Law Amendment Act	designed to reduce the cost of looking after the poor ; introduction of workhouses	Christmas	annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ; associated with goodwill and benevolence	Ghost of Christmas yet to Come	silent, frightening, demanding ; represents the consequences of our actions
Key Concepts / themes		Characters		Methods and Devices	
responsibility	individuals have responsibility for the welfare of those around them	Ebenezer Scrooge	miser, redeemed, philanthropist ; journey of redemption drives the narrative	allegory	story in which the characters and events are symbols of something else
change	everyone has the capacity to change	Jacob Marley	materialistic, reformed, regretful ; acts as a warning and a mirror	intrusive narrator	an omniscient narrator both reports the events of a novel and offers further comments on it
redemption	action of being saved from sin, error, or evil	Fred	cheerful, optimistic, forgiving ; foil to S	foil	character with opposite characteristics to the main character.
poverty	common feature of Victorian Britain – Dickens believed we should not turn a blind eye to it	Bob Cratchit	uncomplaining, good-humoured, loving ; S.'s clerk; one of the deserving poor .	characternym	a name which helps to give the reader an idea of a character's personality .
avarice	extreme greed for wealth or material gain			motif	dominant or recurring idea in an artistic work