

Comprehension Test A

A Christmas Carol

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

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Now, being prepared for almost anything, he was not by any means prepared for nothing; and, consequently, when the Bell struck One, and no shape appeared, he was taken with a violent fit of trembling. Five minutes, ten minutes, a quarter of an hour went by, yet nothing came. All this time, he lay upon his bed, the very core and centre of a blaze of ruddy light, which streamed upon it when the clock proclaimed the hour; and which, being only light, was more alarming than a dozen ghosts, as he was powerless to make out what it meant, or would be at; and was sometimes apprehensive that he might be at that very moment an interesting case of spontaneous combustion, without having the consolation of knowing it. At last, however, he began to think -- as you or I would have thought at first; for it is always the person not in the predicament who knows what ought to have been done in it, and would unquestionably have done it too -- at last, I say, he began to think that the source and secret of this ghostly light might be in the adjoining room, from whence, on further tracing it, it seemed to shine. This idea taking full possession of his mind, he got up softly and shuffled in his slippers to the door.

25 The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by his name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.

It was his own room. There was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a surprising transformation. The walls and ceiling were so hung with living green, that it looked a perfect grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened. The crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe, and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there; and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney, as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time, or Marley's, or for many and many a winter season gone. Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking-pigs, long wreaths of sausages, mince-pies, plum-puddings, barrels of oysters, red-hot chestnuts, cherry-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense twelfth-cakes, and seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with their delicious steam. In easy state upon this couch, there sat a jolly Giant, glorious to see, who bore a glowing torch, in

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shape not unlike Plenty's horn, and held it up, high up, to
shed its light on Scrooge, as he came peeping round the door.

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`Come in.' exclaimed the Ghost. `Come in, and know me better, man.'

Scrooge entered timidly, and hung his head before this Spirit. He was
not the dogged Scrooge he had been; and though the Spirit's eyes were
clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

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`I am the Ghost of Christmas Present,' said the Spirit. `Look upon me.'
Scrooge reverently did so.

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Test A - A Christmas Carol Questions

Refer back to the passage in order to circle the correct answer for each question.

1. How did Scrooge feel when the clock struck one?
 - A Indifferent
 - B Terrified
 - C Content
 - D Nervous
 - E Excited

2. What was Scrooge expecting when the clock struck one?
 - A Nothing
 - B A friend to visit
 - C A shape to appear
 - D More chimes
 - E A loud noise

3. How long did Scrooge wait for in line 8-9?
 - A Half an hour
 - B One hour
 - C The whole night
 - D 15 minutes
 - E 5 minutes

4. What word indicates that the clock is personified?
 - A Ruddy
 - B Alarming
 - C Blaze
 - D Streamed
 - E Proclaimed

5. When the light comes in (lines 11-13), which of these statements is true?
 - A Scrooge knew exactly what was happening.
 - B Scrooge was looking forward to what was to come.
 - C Scrooge did not feel in control of the situation.
 - D Scrooge was enjoying waiting.
 - E Scrooge was inspired by the light.

6. By using the phrase 'At last' (line 16), what is the author implying about Scrooge's revelation?
- A That his conclusion is wrong.
 - B That he could have thought of a better conclusion.
 - C That his revelation is positive.
 - D That he thinks fast.
 - E That he should have come to this conclusion quicker.
7. In what way does Scrooge walk to the next room (Line 22)?
- A Happily
 - B Eagerly
 - C Aggressively
 - D Cautiously
 - E Loudly
8. What tense is 'bade' (line 26) in?
- A Future
 - B Present
 - C Past
 - D Near Future
 - E Past Perfect
9. How does Scrooge react to the appearance of his room (lines 29-35)?
- A Awestruck
 - B Disgruntled
 - C Unresponsive
 - D Bitterly
 - E Concerned
10. How often had Scrooge lit the fire in the room described in line 34?
- A On special occasions
 - B Once a year
 - C Every Christmas
 - D Never
 - E Rarely

11. The word 'dull' (line 34) is an example of:
- A An adjective
 - B A verb
 - C A noun
 - D A preposition
 - E An adverb
12. A synonym for the word 'mighty' (line 33) is:
- A Tiny
 - B Insignificant
 - C Powerful
 - D Violent
 - E Threatening
13. According to the text, Scrooge:
- A Did not expect the ghost to come.
 - B Did not want the ghost to come.
 - C Was eager to see the ghost.
 - D Expected the ghost but was dreading its arrival.
 - E Is good friends with the ghost.
14. What feast has the ghost recreated (lines 36-40)?
- A New Year's roast
 - B Birthday dinner
 - C Thanksgiving meal
 - D Sunday roast
 - E Christmas dinner
15. What does the author imply about all the food?
- A That Scrooge is excited to devour it.
 - B That it is not suitable for the occasion.
 - C That he would not eat any of it.
 - D That there is too little food.
 - E That it is all very appetizing.
16. What does line 42 tell us about the size of the ghost?
- A That he is jolly.
 - B That he is angry.
 - C That he is immense.
 - D That he is suspicious.
 - E That he is petite.

17. In your opinion, why do you think Scrooge goes 'peeping round the door' (line 44)
- A He is tired after a sleepless night.
 - B He is apprehensive about what he might find.
 - C He is excited to find out what is there.
 - D He is trying to end the ordeal as quickly as possible.
 - E He was instructed to by the ghost.
18. Which word best describe the ghost in lines 46 and 51?
- A Cruel
 - B Captivating
 - C Unkind
 - D Overbearing
 - E Malcontent
19. Based on the description of the ghost's eyes in line 50, what do you think his intentions are?
- A To steal from Scrooge.
 - B To hurt Scrooge.
 - C To kidnap Scrooge.
 - D To help Scrooge.
 - E To have dinner with Scrooge.
20. Which statement indicates Scrooge is still weary of the ghost at the end of the passage?
- A He ignored the ghost.
 - B He shook the ghost's hand.
 - C He did not suggest having dinner with the ghost.
 - D He did not meet the ghost's eyes at first.
 - E He did not obey him.