**Pre-Writing**

**Restate Question**

**Answer Question**

**Cite Quotes**

**Explain Quote**

**Thesis:** Of all the well-crafted characters in Dickens’ classic, *A Christmas Carol*, I believe Mrs. Cratchit is most significant.

**Reason #1:** Symbolizes the poor who struggle

**Reason #2:** Shows joy found in family

**Reason #3:** Helps define Scrooge’s character

**Quote:** “It should be Christmas Day, I am sure, on which one drinks to the health of such an odious, stingy, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge…”

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**Example**

Of all the well-crafted characters in Dickens’ classic, *A Christmas Carol*, I believe Mrs. Cratchit is the most significant. She is essential because she represents the struggle of the poor, highlights the joy found in family, and helps characterize Scrooge. Mrs. Cratchit desperately desires health and happiness for her family, yet her cramped four-roomed house, threadbare clothing, sick child, and simple dinner are evidence of her family’s struggles. Most heart-wrenching, is the fact that she is powerless to provide a healthy childhood for her son, Tim, whose leg is bound in an iron brace. When readers analyze Mrs. Cratchit, they see a devoted mother whose ability to care for her family is limited by poverty. Additionally, Mrs. Cratchit is a respectable character highlighting the joy found in family. Despite their meager income, this mother and wife seeks to give her family joy through simple gifts such as baking plum pudding to share, sewing blankets, and joining them in song. Though they are not “handsome or brilliant”, they are “happy,
grateful, and pleased with one another…” Lastly, Mrs. Cratchit helps define Scrooge’s character. While Bob graciously offers a toast in Scrooge’s honor, she resentfully cries, “It should be Christmas Day, I am sure on which on drinks to the health of such an odious, stingy, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge…” She is railing against the employer who keeps her family poor while hoarding wealth for himself. Through Mrs. Cratchit, readers realize how Scrooge’s greed affects others. A character readers can relate to, she does not sugar-coat her feelings towards Scrooge, but rather boldly proclaims them, calling him “odious” and “stingy”. Her voice presents Scrooge as he truly is. Without the addition of Mrs. Cratchit to A Christmas Carol the story would not be as rich as she represents the struggle of the poor, the joy found in family, and the ruthlessness of Scrooge.