A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens

*Use complete sentences and several details to answer these starred items.

SCENE 2

*1. What inference can be made about Scrooge’s relationship with his clerk, Bob Cratchit, based on the following line:

“Next you’ll be asking to replenish your coal from my coal-box won’t you? Well, save your breath, Cratchit! Unless you’re prepared to find employ elsewhere!”

2. Scrooge and Nephew Fred engage in an argument for and against Christmas. Note the points made on each side:

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<th>AGAINST (Scrooge)</th>
<th>FOR (Nephew)</th>
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*3. Immediately after the argument ends, Bob Cratchit erupts into applause on behalf of the nephew. Upon catching sight of the furious Scrooge he pokes out his tiny fire.

Why does he do this? What do both the applause and the snuffing out of the fire reveal about him?

*4. Charles Dickens hasn’t told readers what kind of man the nephew is, but he’s showed them. Describe his character traits based on what Nephew Fred does, says, and believes.
5. The portly man seeks a donation from Scrooge for the poor saying that “…a few of us are endeavoring to raise a fund to buy the poor some mean and drink, and means of warmth.” Based on the sentence what does the bold word probably mean?

*6. What does the following line mean about Christmas? “We choose this time, because it is a time, or all others when Want is keenly felt and Abundance rejoices.”

*7. Scrooge’s response to helping the poor is that “If they would rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population.” Explain what he means:

8. Contrast Scrooge’s behavior toward the do-gooders (thin man and portly man) with Cratchit’s behavior.

9. Reflect on the events of Scene 2. List the variety of ways Scrooge has repeatedly shown greed over generosity.
   1.
   2.
   3.

*10. Which quote from the text has struck you most? Why did you select that particular line or passage?

11. What do you predict will happen in Scene 3 now that he’s arrived home on Christmas Eve?

*12. Visualize the stage directions (in italics) the describe Scrooge walking through town to his home. How is he completely different than all the other townspeople? Describe or sketch what you see. (Use back)