A Christmas Carol

*Use several details and complete sentences for these starred items.

SCENE 1:

1. Serving as a narrator, Marley introduces Scrooge to the audience saying:

“I present him to you: Ebenezer Scrooge…England’s most tightfisted hand at the grindstone. Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping clutching, covetous old sinner.”

Explain what the underlined adjectives have in common? In other words, what do they reveal about Scrooge’s character?

2. Reread the description of Scrooge’s physical features including his “shriveled cheeks” and “thin blue lips”. Sketch how you see him and use a simile to explain what he looks like.

*3. Why did Dickens choose the following exclamation for Scrooge’s first line? “They owe me money and I will collect, I will have them jailed, if I have to.”

4. How did Marley live his life based on the evidence that Scrooge was his “sole mourner”?

5. Select two quotes from Marley’s description of Scrooge on page 646 to show that the people of London fear him.

A.

B.

*6. Marley states, “Christmas eve and Scrooge is busy at his counting house. Where else?” From this detail, what inferences can the reader make about Scrooge?

7. The author’s purpose in scene 1 is to:

   A. Describe the city of London on Christmas Eve as the story’s setting
   B. Create a mysterious mood in the opening to build suspense
   C. Explain Jacob Marley’s past and his current existence as a ghost
   D. Characterize Ebenezer Scrooge as a cold, self-contained businessman