1. In the opening of this stave Scrooge is introduced with the following quote:

“Oh! But he was a 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”. (A) Sketch how you see him (B) Use a **simile** to explain what he looks like (C) Identify one example of Dickens’ use of figurative language.


4. On page 13 in the first full paragraph, Dickens creates mood by describing the weather. How does the weather described help create mood?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGAINST (Scrooge)</th>
<th>FOR (Nephew)</th>
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6. 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.

7. The portly gentleman 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 meat and drink, and means of warmth.” (A) Based on the sentence what does the bold word probably mean? (B) What does it mean that at this time of year “Want s keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices”?

8. 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:

9. Reluctantly, Scrooge gives his clerk the next day off—his one paid holiday, but what is the agreement?

10. Reflecting on the events of the Stave so far, what are a few ways Scrooge has shown greed over generosity? Use bullets:

11. Scrooge has “a small fire in the grate” and a “little saucepan of gruel” (thin broth) at home. What inference can we draw from these details?

12. Upon arriving home, what unusual phenomenon occurs? Use one quote.
13. What does Scrooge mean when he says, “There’s more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!” Explain what this means.

14. Was Marley’s choice to create a dramatic scene of removing his bandage and screaming effective? Explain.

15. What does Marley’s chain symbolize? What can readers infer about the life he led?

16. When Scrooge compliments on Marley being a good man of business, Marley becomes enraged, stating that “The common welfare was my business.” What does he mean?

17. Why has Marley come to Scrooge?

18. The author’s purpose in Stave 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