

December 16, 2008

**TFC:** Answer Monday's questions for TFC credit

**Learning Targets:**

- Finish reading "A Christmas Carol"
- answer all guided reading questions as you read, using the discussion sheet distributed in class

**OC:** review vocab lessons 9 & 10 for Wednesday's test; work on Holiday Project

## Irony & Symbolism

In scene 4, the spirit of Christmas Present says about Tiny Tim, "If he be like to die, he better do it and decrease the surplus population."  
Why is this statement ironic?

It is ironic that the spirit says this, because this is the same statement Scrooge said in scene 1 about poor people. Now he is hurt by the statement. You wouldn't think he'd be hurt by the same statement that he said.

What do the children at the end of scene 4 symbolize? How do you know?

The children at the end of scene 4 symbolize hunger and ignorance. The reader knows this, because the spirit tells Scrooge that they are "hunger" and "ignorance."

## Briefly summarize scene 5

In scene 5, the spirit of Christmas Yet to Come takes Scrooge to his home. Scrooge sees the charwoman, sparsit and cook taking Scrooge's things. Then, the spirit takes Scrooge to the Cratchit's home, where Scrooge sees the family grieving because Tiny Tim has died.

The theme of "A Christmas Carol" could be stated as: Helping those in need can enrich your life. Explain this theme, based on what happens in the play.

This theme is demonstrated in the play by the way Scrooge changes. The reader sees Scrooge turn from an unfeeling, selfish person into a charitable, kind person, because he learns that helping other people, less fortunate, brings joy to his life. For example, he wants to give to the poor in the end and he wants to help Tiny Tim.