14. Scrooge speaks to Marley with ‘humility and deference’. How has he changed since the beginning of his conversation with the ghost? Why do you think he has changed?

5.Scrooge sees a ‘locomotive hearse’ leading him up the stairs. What are the connotations of a hearse? What mood is Dickens trying to establish here?

15. ‘Mankind was by business’ – Explain the significance of this line.

16. Do you think Scrooge wants to change because he can see what he has done wrong, or simply because he is afraid? Discuss.

13. What does Marley suggest about Scrooge’s own chain?

12.’I wear the chain I forged in life’ – Explain the significance of this metaphor.

11. How do you think Scrooge attempts to gain control of the situation?

9. ‘I won’t believe it’ – Why does Scrooge outright refuse to believe what is happening?

8. How does Dickens use the bell to create tension for his readers?

6. ‘Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it.’ – What does this quotation tell us about Scrooge’s character? What does darkness symbolise here?

1.Why do you think Dickens spends so long emphasising the normality of the door knocker?

3.Why do you think Scrooge makes a point of walking into his house ‘sturdily’ after what he has just seen?