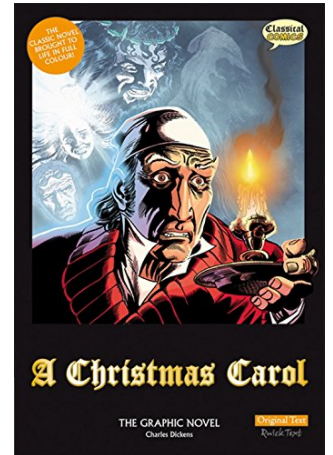


A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens



This is one of the most famous stories of all time. Many people know the name of Scrooge, even if they haven't read the book. Have you come across Scrooge before? Perhaps it was just the name that was familiar – or perhaps you've seen one of the countless film adaptations. If so, what do you remember of it?



Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, when people didn't celebrate Christmas as much as we do now. But things were changing: Christmas cards and Christmas trees were starting to become popular. Dickens wanted his book to look beautiful, and had the illustrations coloured by hand.

Discussion Questions

1. *A Christmas Carol* was an instant hit, and is still famous all over the world. Why do you think it has been so popular?
2. Dickens had been very disturbed by reports about the ill-treatment of young children sent to work down the coal-mines. He would also walk for hours at night through the poorest parts of London. He said he wanted to speak up for 'the poor man's child.' Do you think he does this in the story?

3. When Dickens was twelve, his father was imprisoned for debt, and as was the custom at the time, his family moved into prison with him. Do you think this childhood experience has left its mark on the *Carol*?
4. A few years ago a version of *A Christmas Carol* was put on in prison: it was called *Scrooge in the Scrubs*. What part might you have enjoyed playing?
5. Do you have a favourite Christmas film or song? What is it?

Children's books to explore

The Miracle on Ebenezer Street by Catherine Doyle is a modern re-telling of A Christmas Carol, perfect for children aged 8-12.

From all at PRG and Give a Book, Merry Christmas, and here's to the New Year!