A Christmas Carol – Staves IV/V Questions

Staves IV Comprehension Questions (pgs. 50-63 of novel)

Directions:

- Answer the following questions in preparation for your test; this will serve as part of your review packet for the test on Thursday, December 17th and Friday, December 18th!
- You don’t have to write in complete sentences or use all the space, but make sure you fully answer the question!

1. Who is the last spirit? – Pgs. 50-51

Describe him:

2. On page 51 Scrooge says, “‘Ghost of the Future!’ he exclaimed, ‘I fear you more than any Spectre I have seen. But, as I know your promise is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?’” How has Scrooge changed up until this point? (Think back to when he first saw Marley and the other two spirits.)

3. Who were the men that were talking about the man who had died? – pgs. 51- 52

4. On page 52, who did Scrooge think the men were talking about?

5. On page 53 in the first full paragraph, what does Scrooge notice?

6. What did Scrooge and the ghost see in the next scene (reference pgs. 53-56) and how did Scrooge feel about hearing it (pg. 56)?
7. “If there is any person in the town, who feels emotion caused by this man’s death,’ said Scrooge quite agonized, ‘show that person to me, Spirit, I beseech you!”’ Describe what happened after Scrooge said that. – pages 57-58

8. What did Bob Cratchit say the lesson was that Tiny Tim taught to his family? – page 61

9. Before Scrooge sees the name on the grave, what does he want to know? – page 62

10. How did Scrooge react when he learned it was his name on the grave? – page 62

11. What does Scrooge say that he vows to do if he can continue living? – page 62

12. When Scrooge is back in his bedroom how does he react? – page 63

13. How has Scrooge changed since the beginning of the story? Include at least ONE quote from the text to support your answer.

14. What day does Scrooge realize it is? – page 64
15. What does Scrooge ask the little boy to do? – page 64

16. Where is he going to send what he sent the little boy to get? – page 64

17. What did Scrooge say about his door knocker? How does this relate to the beginning of the story? – page 65

18. Describe how Scrooge walks down the street now, as opposed to how he used to. – page 65

19. Describe the encounter that Scrooge had with the portly gentleman from the day before. – pages 65-66

20. Who does Scrooge stop in to see AND how do they react? - page 66

21. What did Scrooge do for Cratchit that would have been VERY out of his character before? – page 67


22. Did Scrooge keep his word? *Explain how he did this, citing at least one example from the story to support your response.* - page 68
23. When Scrooge asks the Ghost of Christmas Future to show him someone who feels emotion about the man’s death, the Ghost takes him to which scene?

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24. What does the outstretched hand of Christmas Future most likely symbolize?

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25. Before Scrooge looks at the gravestone, the text states, “Men’s courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead,” said Scrooge. ‘But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!’ Why does Scrooge say this to the Spirit?

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26. “‘Spirit!’ he cried, tight clutching at its robe, ‘hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope?’” Following this question, the Spirit’s hand appears to shake for the first time. What is the significance of that detail?

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27. What scene made Scrooge so angry that he demanded to see some sympathy for the dead man?

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28. Why does Scrooge say he fears Christmas Future more than any other Spirit?

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29. Situational irony can be defined as “An outcome contrary to what was or might have been expected.” What was ironic about Scrooge’s reaction to the conversation among Old Joe, First Man, First Woman, and Mrs. Dilber when they were discussing the dead man’s belongings?

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Ye’ old page 4
30. Scrooge asks Christmas Future to show him someone who feels emotion connected with the death. Why is the scene that the Spirit shows Scrooge so important? _______________________________________________________

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31. “Holding up his hands in one last prayer to have his fate reversed, he saw an alteration in the Phantom’s hood and dress. It shrunk, collapsed, and dwindled down into a bedpost.” What might this symbolize?

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32. The description and details of Bob Cratchit are very different in Stave I as compared to Stave III. What is Dickens’s purpose for this?

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33. “If he wanted to keep ‘em after he was dead, a wicked old screw... why wasn’t he natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he’d have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.’” Why is this quote is significant?

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34. “I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!” What is the significance of this quote?

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35. When Scrooge asks to see tenderness connected to a death, what scene is Scrooge is shown?

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36. “‘Spirit!’ said Scrooge, shuddering from head to foot. ‘I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own.’” What does this quote indicate?

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Ye’ old page 5
37. How does the scene at old Joe’s parlor relate to the values and beliefs of Victorian England?

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38. How is this stave full of irony? Explain.

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39. Which scene best depicts how others feel about Scrooge?

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Stave V – Literary Elements (pgs. 63-68)

40. What is the difference in the mood of Stave IV vs. Stave V? (bullet points or dashes are fine!)

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41. How does Scrooge say he will treat Christmas from now on? How does it tie to the central message/theme Dickens wanted to get across to the readers of Victorian England?

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42. Why do you think Scrooge says he will love his door knocker for as long as he lives?

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