

## *Alone for Christmas*



*Scrooge's nephew comes to see him on Christmas Eve.*

- Preview**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentence under the picture.
  4. Read the first ( ) paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Scrooge

- a. is very friendly.
- b. likes to work with money
- c. wants his nephew to come work for him.
- d. likes to give money to Bob Cratchit.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

*Read to find out what Scrooge wants to do on Christmas day.*

## *Alone for Christmas*

Ebenezer Scrooge liked to count money. He did not like Christmas.

Scrooge worked at his counting house. Bob Cratchit worked for Scrooge for a little money. Scrooge did not like to give Bob money for his work. "Bob's family is big," said Scrooge. "His big family is what makes Bob poor, not me."

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge looked up to see his nephew come in. A good Christmas to you!" said his nephew.

"Bah!" said Scrooge. "Humbug!"

"Christmas is not a humbug!" said his nephew.

"What good is Christmas?" said Scrooge. "Christmas will not make me money!"

"What good is money?" said his nephew. "Money is the humbug! This Christmas will give you something money can not give you. You will see!"

"I like Christmas," said Bob Cratchit.

"I like to see you work!"

said Scrooge. Bob Cratchit jumped. He looked down at his work.

"Now, Fred, what do you want?" Scrooge said to his nephew. "Did you come to borrow money?"

"My family is not poor. I do not have to borrow money," said Fred. "I want you to stop counting money for now. Come to my house. My family wants to see you there. I do not want to see you alone on Christmas."

"I do not want to see you on Christmas," said Scrooge. "I will have my Christmas alone. Now, go away, nephew!"

Bob Cratchit worked. Scrooge counted money. He looked up to see a gentleman come in the counting house.

"What do you want?" Scrooge said. "Do you want to borrow money?"

"I do not want to borrow money. I want you to help me get money to poor families," said the gentleman. "Will you give money to the

poor this Christmas?"

"You want me to give money to the poor? I do not have to help," said Scrooge. "Are there no prisons?"

"You can not want the poor to go to prison!" said the gentleman.

"Are there no workhouses?" said Scrooge.

"The poor do not want to go to the workhouse!" said the gentleman. "A little money can give a poor family a home for Christmas."

"I work to make my money," said Scrooge. "I do not work to give my money away!"

"Go and look at the poor families," said the gentleman. "You will want to help!"

"Bah! I do not want to help!" said Scrooge. "The poor will not get my money! I want my money for me! I do not want to have to look at the poor. I want the poor to go away. I want you to go away!"

# Alone for Christmas

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

**Preview Answer:**

b. likes to work with money

1. Bob Cratchit is
  - a. Scrooge's nephew.
  - b. Scrooge's friend.
  - c. coming to borrow money.
  - d. a man who works for Scrooge.
2. Bob Cratchit is poor because
  - a. Bob's children have too many toys.
  - b. the counting house does not make any money.
  - c. Scrooge does not pay him very much.
  - d. Bob's family lives in a big house.
3. Scrooge calls Christmas a "humbug"
  - a. to stop Fred from asking him for money.
  - b. to warn his nephew about bugs on the floor.
  - c. so that Bob Cratchit will keep working.
  - d. because he doesn't think Christmas is worth anything.
4. When Fred comes to the counting house he
  - a. asks Scrooge to come to his house for Christmas.
  - b. asks to borrow money.
  - c. tells Bob Cratchit to jump.
  - d. asks if his family can come to Scrooge's house.
5. Two people come to the counting house to see Scrooge. They are
  - a. Bob Cratchit and Fred.
  - b. Fred and the gentleman.
  - c. Bob Cratchit and the gentleman.
  - d. The gentleman and the humbug.
6. When the gentleman comes to the counting house
  - a. Scrooge gives him money.
  - b. he wants Scrooge to come with him.
  - c. he wants to borrow money.
  - d. he wants Scrooge to help the poor.
7. Scrooge works so that he
  - a. has a nice home.
  - b. has money to help Fred with his big family.
  - c. can have more money for himself.
  - d. has enough money to move away from people.
8. Scrooge says he wants
  - a. the poor to go away so he does not have to look at them.
  - b. to make more money than the gentleman.
  - c. the gentleman to help Bob Cratchit's family.
  - d. to have Fred come back after Christmas.
9. Another name for this story could be
  - a. "Scrooge Makes a New Friend."
  - b. "Fred Has a Party."
  - c. "Christmas Eve at the Counting House."
  - d. "The Poor Come to Scrooge."
10. This story is mainly about
  - a. people who should give money to the poor.
  - b. how Scrooge wants to be alone with his money.
  - c. a gentleman who gives money to the poor.
  - d. how Fred wants Scrooge to see his family.

Check your answers with the keys on page 67.

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