



Study Guide 2020-2021



The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

By Mark Brown

Florida Standards

Language Arts

LAFS.910.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

LAFS.910.RH.1: Key Ideas and Details

LAFS.1112.SL.1: Comprehension and Collaboration

LAFS.1112.RL.1: Key Ideas and Details

Theater

TH.912.F.2: Careers in and related to the arts

TH.68.S.1: The arts are inherently experiential.

TH.68.S.3: Artists learn to master techniques.

PG

Mildly frightening content

Most appropriate for Grade 6 and up.

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

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The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Introduction

Educators:

First, let us say that we hope you all are holding up during these unprecedented times. The past several months have been difficult for all who love arts education, and we are working hard to meet your needs for the 2020-2021 school year in whatever format works best for you and your students.

We are aware that some of you may be meeting in person with your students, some virtually, and many in a combination of the two. To that end, we are redesigning all of our educational offerings to be deliverable in a variety of ways.

We understand that Field Trips may not be possible this school year, due to social distancing and bus scheduling, however, for those of you able to come see a show, we intend to continue live Children's Series and Signature Series performances. We are also looking into streaming or recording opinions, for those of you unable to leave the school.

We also have created Virtual versions of our popular workshops, Shakespeare Alive and Books Alive, so that we can continue visiting your classrooms safely. Also, we have redesigned our Study Guides to be interactive. This will allow you to explore them with your students as a group, but also assign activities from them to your students to complete individually online. Our hope is that Orlando Shakes will continue to meet your needs and become an essential partner in bringing theatre arts to your students for years to come.

Most importantly, if you have an idea for a program or delivery system that would make our partnership easier, please let us know. We now know that anything is possible, and that we as arts educators inherently bring our talent and creativity to every challenge we face.

We look forward to working with you this year and learning how we can serve you and your students. Thank you for your tremendous work in nurturing our audiences of tomorrow.

Anne Hering
Director of Education

Brandon Yagel
Education Coordinator



The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Enjoying Live Theater

Theater is a Team Sport

The **Playwright** writes the script. Sometimes it is from an original idea and sometimes it is adapted from a book or story. The Playwright decides what the characters say, and gives the Designers guidelines on how the play should look.

The **Director** creates the vision for the production and works closely with the actors, costume, set and lighting designers to make sure everyone tells the same story.



Sound Designer -
Britt Sanducky
Photo: Rob Jones



Stage Manager -
Stacey Renee
Norwood
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Actors** use their bodies and voices to bring the author's words and the director's ideas to life on the stage.

The **Designers** imagine and create the lights, scenery, props, costumes and sound that will compliment and complete the director's vision.

The **Stage Manager** assists the director during rehearsals by recording their instructions and making sure the actors and designers understand these ideas. The Stage Manager then runs the show during each performance by calling cues for lights and sound, as well as entrances and exits.



Costume Designer -
Denise Warner
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Shop** and **Stage Crew** builds the set, props and costumes according to the designer's plans. The Stage Crew sets the stage with props and furniture, assists the actors with costume changes and operates sound, lighting and stage machinery during each performance.



Creative Team of The Merry Wives of
Windsor
Photo: Rob Jones

The **Front of House Staff** welcomes you to the theater, takes your tickets, helps you find your seat and answers any question you may have on the day of performance.

The **Theater** is where it all takes place. Orlando Shakespeare Theater In Partnership with UCF is the only professional, classical theater company in Central Florida, reaching students and audiences in the surrounding eight counties.

Mission:

To enrich our community with engaging professional theater, inspiring educational experiences, and thought-provoking new plays.

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Enjoying Live Theater

The Actor/Audience Relationship

The Audience is the reason Live Theater exists. At Orlando Shakes, we cherish the Actor/Audience relationship, the unique give and take that exists during a performance which makes the audience an ACTIVE participant in the event. The actors see the audience just as the audience sees the actors, and every, laugh, snuffle, chuckle and gasp the audience makes effects the way the actor plays his next moment. We want you to be engaged, and to live the story with us!



Photo: Rob Jones

There are certain Conventions of the Theatrical Event, like, when the lights go down you know that the show is about to start, and that the audience isn't encouraged to come and go during a performance. Here are some other tips to help you and your classmates be top notch audience members:

- Please make sure to turn off your cell phones. And NO TEXTING!
- Please stay in your seat. Use the restroom before you take your seat and stay in your seat unless there is an emergency.
- Please do not eat or drink in the theater.

Talkback

After the performance, the actors will stay on stage for about 10 minutes to hear your comments and answer any questions you have about the play and the production. We'd love to hear what you felt about the play, what things were clear or unclear to you, and hear your opinions about what the play means. This last portion of the Actor/Audience Relationship is so important to help us better serve you and enrich your artistic experience.

Consider the Themes and Key Questions above and ask yourself:

1. What Key Questions did the play answer?
2. Do you agree with everything the play said about these themes?
3. How did the actors, directors, and designers all address these themes?
4. What opinion did the artists bring to the process, did those opinion change throughout the process (designing, rehearsing, performing) and how did that impact their work?

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

About the Story

Summary of *A Christmas Carol*

A mean-spirited, miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting-house on a frigid Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, shivers in the anteroom because Scrooge refuses to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, pays his uncle a visit and invites him to his annual Christmas party. Two portly gentlemen also drop by and ask Scrooge for a contribution to their charity. Scrooge reacts to the holiday visitors with bitterness and venom, spitting out an angry "Bah! Humbug!" in response to his nephew's "Merry Christmas!"



Later that evening, after returning to his dark, cold apartment, Scrooge receives a chilling visitation from the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley. Marley, looking haggard and pallid, relates his unfortunate story. As punishment for his greedy and self-serving life his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighted down with heavy chains. Marley hopes to save Scrooge from sharing the same fate. Marley informs Scrooge that three spirits will visit him during each of the next three nights. After the wraith disappears, Scrooge collapses into a deep sleep.

He wakes moments before the arrival of the Ghost of Christmas Past, a strange childlike phantom

with a brightly glowing head. The spirit escorts Scrooge on a journey into the past to previous Christmases from the curmudgeon's earlier years. Invisible to those he watches, Scrooge revisits his childhood school days, his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant named Fezziwig, and his engagement to Belle, a woman who leaves Scrooge because his lust for money eclipses his ability to love another. Scrooge, deeply moved, sheds tears of regret before the phantom returns him to his bed.

The Ghost of Christmas Present, a majestic giant clad in a green fur robe, takes Scrooge through London to unveil Christmas as it will happen that year. Scrooge watches the large, bustling Cratchit family prepare a miniature feast in its meager home. He discovers Bob Cratchit's crippled son, Tiny Tim, a courageous boy whose kindness and humility warms Scrooge's heart. The specter then zips Scrooge to his nephew's to witness the Christmas party. Scrooge finds the jovial gathering delightful and pleads with the spirit to stay until the very end of the festivities. As the day passes, the spirit ages, becoming noticeably older. Toward the end of the day, he shows Scrooge two starved children, Ignorance and Want, living under his coat. He vanishes instantly as Scrooge notices a dark, hooded figure coming toward him.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come leads Scrooge through a sequence of mysterious scenes relating to an unnamed man's

recent death. Scrooge sees businessmen discussing the dead man's riches, some vagabonds trading his personal effects for cash, and a poor couple expressing relief at the death of their unforgiving creditor. Scrooge, anxious to learn the lesson of his latest visitor, begs to know the name of the dead man. After pleading with the ghost, Scrooge finds himself in a churchyard, the spirit pointing to a grave. Scrooge looks at the headstone and is shocked to read his own name. He desperately implores the spirit to alter his fate, promising to renounce his insensitive, avaricious ways and to honor Christmas with all his heart. Whoosh! He suddenly finds



himself safely tucked in his bed. Overwhelmed with joy by the chance to redeem himself and grateful that he has been returned to Christmas Day, Scrooge rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He sends a giant Christmas turkey to the Cratchit house and attends Fred's party, to the stifled surprise of the other guests. As the years go by, he holds true to his promise and honors Christmas with all his heart: he treats Tiny Tim as if he were his own child, provides lavish gifts for the poor, and treats his fellow human beings with kindness, generosity, and warmth.

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

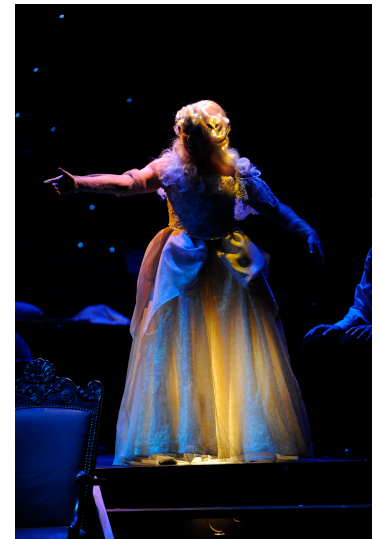
About the Play

Summary



The Trial of the Century! A year after his miraculous transformation, Ebenezer Scrooge is back to his old ways and is suing Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future for breaking and entering, kidnapping, slander, pain and suffering, attempted murder and the intentional infliction of emotional distress. The ghosts employ Solomon Rothschild, England's most charismatic, savvy, and clever barrister. Scrooge, that old penny pincher, represents himself. One by one, Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's nephew Fred, solicitor and philanthropist Sara Anne Wainwright, and the ghosts themselves take the witness stand to give their account of the night in question. But the Spirit of Christmas Future breaks down under heavy questioning and confesses that Jacob Marley forced the spirits to break one of the rules of redemption: Do not use a dead body to scare someone into redemption, for the consequences could prove fatal. Judge Stanchfield Pearson gives his verdict: Jacob Marley and the Spirits of Christmas, guilty! Pearson fines the spirits 40,000 pounds apiece and terminates their redemptive duties. Rothschild desperately pleads with the judge not to terminate the spirits of Christmas. It's a death sentence. But in another staggering turn of events, Scrooge makes the spirits an offer: work every day, not just one day a year, and he'll drop the charges. The spirits agree and, to everyone's amazement, Scrooge does drop the charges. But he's keeping the money the ghosts owe him to start a fund to help the poor. Everyone stares at Scrooge. And then ... a twinkle in Scrooge's eye, a smile and giddy, joyously

delirious laughter. Scrooge confesses that Jacob Marley and the Spirits of Christmas had to go to extraordinary measures to change him, so he had to go to extraordinary measures to change the Spirits of Christmas. The spirit of caring and giving should be every day, not just once a year. Scrooge then leads the stunned crowd to his house for a wondrous party.



Source: dramaticpublishing.com

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge
About the Play
Meet the Characters of the Play

Scrooge: A miserly bookkeeper in the city of London

Solomon Rothschild: The eloquent and confident defense attorney for the accused ghosts

Jacob Marley: The deceased business partner of Scrooge. Marley's ghost visits Scrooge to forewarn him of the impending visits from the three ghosts

Judge Pearson: The grumpy judge, much like Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, who presides over the trial with an iron fist

Mr. Connolly, the Bailiff: The deputy of the courtroom

Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future: The three ghosts on trial for breaking and entering and kidnapping Scrooge

Fred: Scrooge's nephew who always invites Scrooge to Christmas Dinner.

Belle: The former love interest of Scrooge

Fan: Scrooge's sister who offers insight to Scrooge's painful childhood.

Bob Cratchit: The clerk at Mr. Scrooges's business.

Mrs. Cratchit: Bob's wife and the mother of the Cratchit children.

Miss Wainwright: A community activist who goes around asking for donations to help the poor, especially around Christmas time.

Mrs. Dilber: A city beggar who is accused of stealing articles of clothing and jewelry from Mr. Scrooge.

The Translator: Converts the gibberish of the Ghost of Christmas Future into English.



The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

About the Play

Meet the Author of the Story

Charles Dickens is much loved for his great contribution to classic English literature. He was the quintessential Victorian author. His epic stories, vivid characters and exhaustive depiction of contemporary life are unforgettable.

His own story is one of rags to riches. He was born in Portsmouth on 7 February 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. The good fortune of being sent to school at the age of nine was short-lived because his father, inspiration for the character of Mr Micawber in 'David Copperfield', was imprisoned for bad debt. The entire family, apart from Charles, were sent to Marshalsea along with their patriarch. Charles was sent to work in Warren's blacking factory and endured appalling conditions as well as loneliness and despair. After three years he was returned to school, but the experience was never forgotten and became fictionalized in two of his better-known novels 'David Copperfield' and 'Great Expectations'.



Like many others, he began his literary career as a journalist. His own father became a reporter and Charles began with the journals 'The Mirror of Parliament' and 'The True Sun'. Then in 1833 he became parliamentary journalist for The Morning Chronicle. With new contacts in the press he was able to publish a series of sketches under the pseudonym 'Boz'. In April 1836, he married Catherine Hogarth, daughter of George Hogarth who edited 'Sketches by Boz'. Within the same month came the publication of the highly successful 'Pickwick Papers', and from that point on there was no looking back for Dickens.

As well as a huge list of novels he published autobiography, edited weekly periodicals including 'Household Words' and 'All Year Round', wrote travel books and administered charitable organizations. He was also a theatre enthusiast, wrote plays and performed before Queen Victoria in 1851. His energy was inexhaustible and he spent much time abroad - for example lecturing against slavery in the United States and touring Italy with companions Augustus Egg and Wilkie Collins, a contemporary writer who inspired Dickens' final unfinished novel 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood'.

He was estranged from his wife in 1858 after the birth of their ten children, but maintained relations with his mistress, the actress Ellen Ternan. He died of a stroke in 1870. He is buried at Westminster Abbey.

Meet the Playwright

Mark Brown is an award-winning writer. His plays include Around the World in 80 Days, Tom Jones the Musical, Tom Jones, The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge, Love, the Cracksman, China: The Whole Enchilada, Poe: Deep Into That Darkness Peering and The Little Prince. Brown's play Around the World in 80 Days has been produced around the world, from off-Broadway to Baridhara Dhaka, Bangladesh, and has been translated into Turkish. Tom Jones, his nonmusical adaptation of the ribald Henry Fielding novel, received its world premiere in 2014 and has been called clever, silly and highly theatrical. Brown's play The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge has been called a sequel worthy of Dickens' approval and a worthy new entry into the holiday canon. Tom Jones the Musical is a bawdy and rollicking romp with music inspired by the frenzied mop-top-led era of the British Invasion. The Quest for Don Quixote, inspired by the epic novel, was the marquee production at the 2015 Arkansas New Play Festival. Love, the Cracksman, Brown's homage to the screwball film comedies of the 1930s, kicked off the 2017 PlayLab at Florida Repertory Theatre. His musical China: The Whole Enchilada was named Outstanding Musical of the 2008 New York International Fringe Festival and has been called funny, smart, surprisingly deep and very enjoyable. His adaptation of The Little Prince set box office records at several theatres and his play Poe: Deep Into That Darkness Peering hasn't won a thing but is a darn good play and should be produced more often. Brown lives in Los Angeles and dreams of living in a chateau in France.



Source: dramaticpublishing.com

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

About the Play

British Court Terminology

Court Officials

Bailiff: a legal officer responsible for overseeing the courtroom and keeping things under control and in order

Grand Jury: a type of common law jury responsible for investigating alleged crimes, examining evidence, and issuing indictments if they believe that there is enough evidence for a trial to proceed

Lord Mayor: the Mayor of London

Magistrate: a judicial officer with limited authority to administer and enforce the law

The Clerk: responsibilities include maintaining the records of a court and the custodian of the court's seal, which is used to authenticate copies of the court's orders



Court Terms

Opening Statement: the first statement made by the attorney for both the defense and prosecution. It outlines what they hope to accomplish during the trial.

Perjury: lying or making verifiably false statements under oath in a court of law

Indictment: a formal charge of having committed a serious criminal offense

Testimony: a form of evidence that is obtained from a witness who makes a solemn statement. Testimonies can be written or oral.

Court Rulings

Objection: when a witness is asked a question, the opposing attorney can raise an objection which is a legal move to reject the question. An objection is either sustained (allowed) or overruled (not-allowed).

Contempt of court: a failure to obey a lawful order of a court, showing disrespect for the judge, disruption of the proceedings through poor behavior, or publication of material likely to jeopardize a fair trial. A judge may fine or jail someone found guilty of contempt of court.

Provoking: causing annoyance; irritating

Sovereigns: a monarch; king, queen or supreme ruler

Treachery: betrayal of trust

Twiddle: twist, move, or fiddle with something nervously

Tyranny: cruel and oppressive government or rule

Vanquish: defeat thoroughly

Vicious: deliberately cruel or violent

Source: taproottheatre.org

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

About the Play

Historical Context

The Poor

The Victorian answer to dealing with the poor and indigent was the New Poor Law, enacted in 1834. Previously it had been the burden of the parishes to take care of the poor.

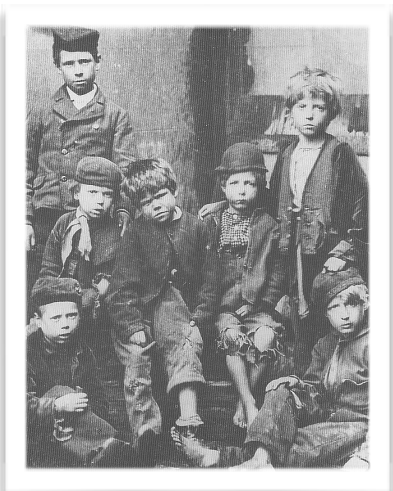
The new law required parishes to band together and create regional workhouses where aid could be applied for. The workhouse was little more than a prison for the poor. Civil liberties were denied, families were separated, and human dignity was destroyed. The true poor often went to great lengths to avoid this relief.

Dickens, because of the childhood trauma caused by his father's imprisonment for debt and his consignment to the blacking factory to help support his family, was a true champion to the poor. He repeatedly pointed out the atrocities of the system through his novels.

Journalist Henry Mayhew chronicled the plight of the London poor in articles originally written for the *Morning Chronicle* and later collected in *London Labour and the London Poor* (1851).

With the turn of the century and Queen Victoria's death in 1901 the Victorian period came to a close. Many of the ills of the 19th century were remedied through education, technology and social reform... and by the social consciousness raised by the immensely popular novels of Dickens.

charlesdickenspage.com



66 *Report of Dr. Farre and Mr. Grainger*

No. 16.

Wapping Workhouse of the Stepney Union.

(Visited 22 February.)

Numbers.

This constitutes the fourth house of the Stepney Union. It is used for the able-bodied and infirm women. The number of inmates at present is 386, of whom 33 are infants, 17 being at the breast. The limit of this house is 380; this was greatly exceeded in April last, when the numbers reached 460.

Dormitories crowded.

Some of the dormitories in this house appear to be crowded. The large dormitory, No. 26, has three rows of double beds, and eight of these contain three women in each. The same is the case also in ward 27. These and other sleeping apartments have no means for receiving the air at night, except a small moving fanlight over the door of each, but these at night would be closed; they should be removed and fixed hoppers substituted.

No alterations since 1848.

The general arrangements remain the same as in 1848. It is said that the water-closet with a trap cannot be employed in this house, on account of the mischievous character of the inmates, which would also prevent those kinds suggested in the Report from being used. Nor is there any power over the adjoining houses to abate the nuisance mentioned in the Report as arising from the privies in the adjoining houses; but it is said that the nuisance has been diminished by the addition of a drain.

Dietary.

The same dietary, with slight variation, is employed for the three adult houses of this union; viz.—

For breakfast; gruel, and 5 oz. to 7 oz. of bread.

Dinner; three days, meat 5 oz. to 6 oz., and potatoes, half to three-quarters of a pound.

„ three days, soup 1 pint to 1½ pint.

„ one day, suet or rice pudding.

Supper; bread, 5 oz. to 7 oz.; cheese or butter; gruel or broth.

At the Ratcliffe House tea is used instead of gruel, night and morning.

At Wapping and Mile End the same to all above 60, and to women nursing.

It

House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Online.

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Workhouse Article - House of Commons
Parliamentary Papers Online

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Activities

What is a Sequel?

No matter how interesting a playwright attempts to be, the topic of their play has usually been covered on some small or large level in the centuries that plays have been recorded. As the saying goes: “There is nothing new under the sun.” In line with that, *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* by Mark Brown is a sequel to *A Christmas Carol*, by famed English playwright Charles Dickens. In modern times we see the sequel concept in films such as Batman, Superman, various Disney films and the like. Name of a few movies that you like:

Do the movies have a sequel? If not, take a minute to briefly describe what that sequel might be for one of those movies (What characters would remain and which ones will be written out or added to the story)?

The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Activities

Write a Review

Explain to students that the director's job is to take the words on the script from the printed page to the stage and bring them to life. Explain that theater critics review shows and publish their opinions. For AmericanTheatreCritics.org, critic Sherry Eaker wrote, "My point of view was that it wasn't the theatre critic's place to tell the playwright what he or she should be doing; instead, the critic should focus on what is already there and explain either why it works or why it doesn't work."

After seeing the production, have each student write a review of Orlando Shakes' production. The review should include one paragraph each for:

- Introduction – What did you watch, where and when, and maybe, why?
- The script – Did you like the writing, the story, the characters? Why or why not?
- The acting – Did you believe and care about the characters as portrayed? Why or why not?
- The design – Did you like the set, costume and light designs? Why or why not?
- The staging – How did the director stage the violence? Was it effective?
- The audience – What ways did the audience respond to particular moments?
- Conclusion – What will you remember about this performance?

If you wish, send your reviews to us at: anneh@orlandoshakes.org

We'd love to hear your opinions of our show!

Read more: How to Become a Theater Critic | [eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_2079002_become-theater-critic.html#ixzz1v9tEyMnc](http://www.ehow.com/how_2079002_become-theater-critic.html#ixzz1v9tEyMnc)



The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge

Discussion and Themes

Themes

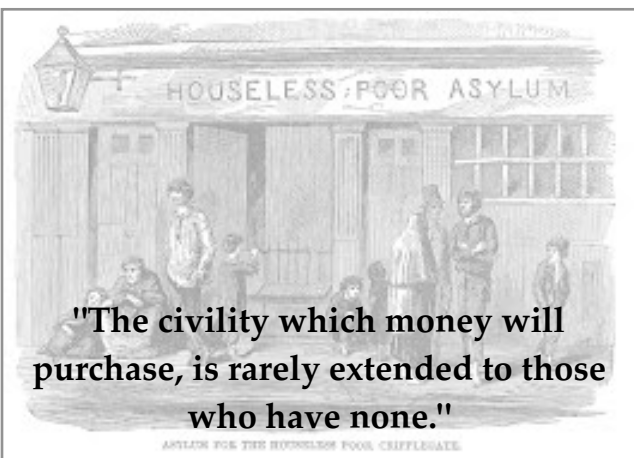
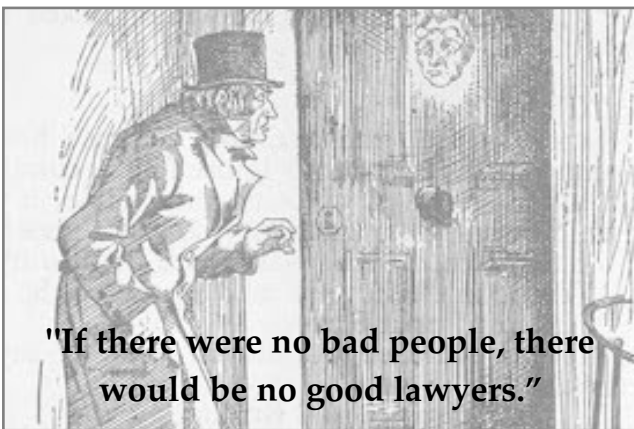
Justice for All: In this sequel, we see that Justice is blind and is administered to those who we the spectators may see as innocent. As a lesson from seeing the ghosts on trial, in real life we must remember never to take matters into our own hands as it pertains to physical confrontation of a callous individual.

Think of why it is not wise to surpass authorities and take justice into your own hands.

Mercy/Compassion:

At the end of the ghosts are found guilty and it seems as though their career and lives are over. In an instant, Mr. Rothschild pleads for the judge to have mercy on his clients, but to no avail. Then unexpectedly, Mr. Scrooge has mercy on his assailants by offering a deal to spread the Christmas spirit everyday or cease to exist; reluctantly the ghosts take the first option. Think of a time where someone showed mercy toward you:

Pick one of these Charles Dickens quotes and explain whether or not it is true today:



Supplemental Resources & Bibliography

<http://www.charles-dickens.com>

<http://www.readbookonline.net>

classiclit.about.com

www.dickensmuseum.com

www.dickens.port.ac.uk

www.telegraph.co.uk