

# A Christmas Carol Projects

Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Choose one of the following projects. Pick one that you will have fun doing and that will express your best work.*

1. Carefully review Dickens' descriptions of Marley and the three ghosts. Sketch colorful portraits of each on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Label your sketches and write a paragraph explaining the purpose of each ghost and how it affected Scrooge. Indicate which spirit seemed to affect Scrooge the most and why.
2. Pretend you are a reporter from a London newspaper and interview Scrooge. In your news article answer the following questions. Lay this out to look like a page in a newspaper.
  - *Mr. Scrooge, you were once known as "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" How would you describe yourself now? What would you say caused this change?*
  - *What was most important to you in the past? What is important to you now?*
  - *What is your deepest regret about the past? Why is that such a cause of regret?*
  - *Since you have changed, which deed are you proudest of and why?*
  - *How has becoming a philanthropist affected the way you feel about others? How has it changed you?*
  - *What advice would you give others, based on your own experience?*
  - *How would you like to be remembered? In fact, how would you like your epitaph to read?*
3. Write a sequel to the story, describing how Scrooge lives out his everyday life and how he celebrates Christmas ten years after his experiences with the spirits. (This could be written as a skit and acted out with other classmates.)
4. Write a script for a short scene in the story and act it out. Conclude your script with a written paragraph or oral explanation of how your scene either does or does not support the idea of caring and sharing. Give examples from the scene. Suggested scenes:
  - Scrooge's conversation with Fred and the charity fundraisers
  - Marley and Scrooge
  - Scrooge's tour to remote places with the *Ghost of Christmas Present*
  - The meeting in Joe's pawnshop
  - Scrooge's Christmas dinner at Fred's
5. Contrast the video and the story in the book. Specifically, look for details that were added to the video which impact Scrooge with the theme of caring and sharing. Take notes while you watch the video. (Suggestion: Use a Venn diagram to help you.) Then write an



essay discussing how the video version either added or detracted from the theme of caring and sharing with others. You could also organize your discussion on note cards and give a speech.

6. Imagine that the three spirits of Christmas paid you a visit. Describe and/or draw what each spirit would show you (characters, places and events). Sum up your experiences by writing about how this visit might help you be more philanthropic.
7. Scrooge buys a huge turkey for the Cratchits' Christmas dinner. Explain what organizations in your community do to help bring cheer to others over the holidays. Interview members of at least three community organizations to find out what they do. (Have your questions approved ahead of time.) You may telephone the organization or go there in person. Make a poster that includes their names, phone numbers and an explanation of the opportunities for service. Don't forget to notice what your own church and school are doing. Your final project should include the poster and a neat copy of the questions and answers from the interviews. You must also write one paragraph on why it is important for these organizations to serve their communities. If possible, actually get involved by serving.
8. Dickens wrote novels that criticized the attitudes of the greedy and exposed the abuses of the poor. Write a short story about an attitude or abuse that you would like to see changed. The story should motivate the reader toward a desire to work for reform. Use the Internet to research facts for your story. Possible topics include: the number of orphans left by AIDS victims or the large number of homeless people. The short story should be about two-and-one-half pages in length.
9. Read another book by Charles Dickens. Write a two-page book report including a page which shows, with an example, how Dickens included a philanthropic theme in that book, as well.
10. Collect at least ten newspaper articles, church bulletin announcements, and/or requests that come in the mail that give opportunities to do philanthropy. Neatly organize them into a scrapbook or three-pronged folder (available by asking the teacher). Write an explanation next to the news articles to tell how they relate to philanthropy. Choose one of the church bulletin announcements or mailings to actually do and become involved in philanthropy. Write about which one you chose and why.

### **Optional Projects:**

- *Participate in the caring and sharing options that your school offers to students at this time of year.*
- *Participate in the caring and sharing opportunities that your church offers.*
- *Involve your family in a community-related philanthropy project.*



**For any of these projects, write a one-and-a-half to two-page essay about your experience and include answers to the following questions:**

- *Who did you help?*
- *What did you do?*
- *Where did you go?*
- *When did you do the philanthropic activity?*
- *Why was it important for you to help out in this way?*
- *How did you benefit from this experience?*
- *How did others benefit?*

