Before you read

What do you know about Christmas traditions in England?
- Which days do people have off work?
- What do they eat and drink?
- What songs do they sing?

Reading

Read the first chapter then answer the questions on it. Do the same for each of the other chapters. Make sure you answer the questions for one chapter before reading the next one.

Marley’s ghost

1. Who was Jacob Marley?
2. What is the name of Scrooge’s clerk?
3. Write down three things that show us how mean Scrooge is.
4. What is the first mysterious thing that happens when Scrooge arrives home?
5. Why is Marley being punished?
6. How many spirits does Marley say will visit Scrooge?
The first of the three spirits

1. Who or what is the first spirit?

2. Draw a picture of the spirit, using the description to help you. Label it with words from the text.

3. What happy scene does the spirit show him?

4. Why did Scrooge not get married?

The second of the three spirits

1. Who or what is the second spirit?

2. What did the Cratchit family have for Christmas dinner?

3. What is wrong with Tiny Tim?

4. How does Fred describe Scrooge?

The last of the spirits

1. Why is Scrooge frightened of the spirit?

2. List three things that the spirit shows Scrooge.

3. How has Scrooge changed since the beginning of the story?

The end of the story

What would Fred write in his diary about Christmas Day? Think about what happened during the day. Think carefully about Fred’s feelings - what might have surprised him or made him happy?

After reading
Imagine you are Fred. Write his diary.
**Teacher’s notes**

This resource accompanies the Oxford Bookworms Library version of *A Christmas Carol* and provides a quicker approach than the exercises provided at the back of the book. However, the ‘Reading’ and ‘After reading’ sections could be done in conjunction with the Oxford Bookworm activities.

**Before you read**

You may want to look at some easy or famous carols with your students, such as ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ or ‘Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer’.

**Reading**

**Marley’s ghost**

1. Scrooge’s business partner (p.1)
2. Bob Cratchit (p.3)
3. ‘Bob had a very small fire, but Bob’s was even smaller.’ (p.3)
   - “[…] what is Christmas? Just a time when you spend too much”’ (p.4)
   - “[…] we should help poor people who have no food or clothes or homes.”
   - “Are there no prisons?” asked Scrooge coldly.’ (p.6)
   - “I won’t pay for other people to be merry” (p.7)
   - “It’s not fair. I have to pay you for a day’s work when you don’t do any work.”’ (p.8)
4. The knocker becomes Marley’s face. (p.8)
5. because he was never good or kind in life (p.12)
6. three (p.12)

**The first of the three spirits**

1. the ghost of Christmas Past (p.15)
2. see the middle of p.15
3. the Christmas party at Fezziwig’s (pp.19-22)
4. because his girlfriend felt he loved money more than he loved her (p.23)

**The second of the three spirits**

1. the ghost of Christmas Present (p.27)
2. chicken, potatoes, and Christmas pudding (pp.29-31)
3. He cannot walk. (pp.29-30)
4. “a strange old man […] He isn’t happy or comfortable, although he’s rich.”’ (p.36)

**The last of the spirits**

1. the spirit of Christmas Yet to Come, i.e. the future (p.39)
2. because the spirit is dressed in black and does not speak (p.39)
   - because Scrooge is starting to realise that he is a bad man (p.39)
   - because the spirit shows Scrooge that people are happy at his death (pp.45/49)
3. people in the street who are not interested in Scrooge’s death (pp.40-41)
   - people selling things taken from his dead body (pp.42-44)
   - the Cratchits after Tiny Tim’s death (pp.46-48)
   - Scrooge’s grave (pp.48-49)
4. He wants to “try to be kind, and cheerful, and merry, every day”’ (p.50)

**The end of the story**

points that Fred would know about:
- Scrooge wore his best clothes
- He went to Fred’s for dinner.
- He enjoyed the meal.
- He played games.