

A Christmas Carol - Stave One
The Character of Scrooge

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Directions: A writer makes characters come alive through *methods of characterization*—the details used to present the personality of a character. Read the following excerpts from the book. In the first column write the method of characterization being used to reveal Scrooge’s personality. In the second column write a **complete sentence** that summarizes what the excerpt is telling us about Scrooge.

Methods of Characterization	
• Words	• Appearance
• Actions	• Comments or reactions by other characters
• Thoughts and feelings	• Direct comments by the narrator

Excerpt	Method of Characterization	What the excerpt reveals about Scrooge Please answer using complete sentences.
<i>Example:</i> Scrooge never painted out old Marley’s name. There it stood, years afterward, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley.	<i>actions</i>	<i>This excerpt reveals that Scrooge is more interested in maintaining his business than having people know who he is. He’s also too cheap to have the sign changed.</i>
1. Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire, secret and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.		
2. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait, made his eyes red, his thin lips blue. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin.		
3. External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him.		
4. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, with gladsome looks, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?’ No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what it was o’clock, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge.		
5. It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance . . .		

<p>6. The door of Scrooge's counting-house was open, that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who, in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters.</p>		
<p>7. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he [the clerk] couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal-box in his own room . . .</p>		
<p>8. "If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."</p>		
<p>9. "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge. "Since you ask me what I wish, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there . . . If they would rather die . . . they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."</p>		
<p>10. "A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!" said Scrooge [to his clerk.] "But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning."</p>		
<p>11. Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's book, went home to bed.</p>		
<p>12. Quite satisfied, Scrooge locked himself in—double-locked himself in, which was not his custom.</p>		
<p>13. Scrooge was not much in the habit of cracking jokes, nor did he feel, in his heart, by any means waggish then. The truth is that he tried to be smart as a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his terror, for the specter's voice disturbed the very marrow in his bones.</p>		